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WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 17, 1873.

The Commission authorized by act of Congress, and composed of the chief officers of the scientific and engineering bureaus of the Government are preparing for the consideration of the surveys or the various interoceanic canal routes with a view to making their report if possible at, or very soon after, the opening of Congress. The object of this Commission is to carefully consider the different routes in their commercial and financial prospects, and to decide upon their feasibility. It will also be expected to decide upon the best route to construct. The Darien route is the shortest, requiring but a little over twenty miles of digging in order to connect the heads of navigation on the Atrato and Napipi rivers. At either end there is a fine harbor, well sheltered and with sufficient accommodation for a large fleet to ride at anchor. The cost of completing this canal would be one hundred millions and therefore is out of the reach of a private corporation. The development of trade not only along the contiguous coasts, but along the entire western side of South America has increased incredibly in the past few years. The building of railroads in Central America, Peru and Chili has also stimulated the productive capacity of these portions of the globe. The copper of the Andes finds its way to Arica and Coquimbo and other ports in immense quantities. This, with the wool, is practically all carried to Europe. German and Italian emigration has also set in. The report of the Commission will present many features of the question. It will remain with Congress to decide the political aspect. There are several foreign governments watching this subject with great interest, and it is admitted that if the United States does not take some steps, England or Germany will.

Young America on a Tour.

On the third of July Thomas Sherman, a son of the General, Charlie Bradley, a son of Judge Bradley of this District, and Master Dennis, a school-mate (three lads each in his seventeenth year), left here to spend their summer vacation on horseback in the picturesque regions of Central Pennsylvania. Though young in years the party was full of the courage and manhood of the rising generation of our Republic. Two of the horses were furnished by General Sherman, and the other by Judge Bradley. Each of the boys wore a suit of stout clothes, and carried one change of underclothing and a water-proof cape. Tom Sherman, the leader of the expedition, carried a pistol, which, however, proving an encumbrance in an unwarlike country, was expressed back and restored to the paternal armory. The route followed took them through Frederick and Hagerstown, Maryland; thence into Pennsylvania, to Chambersburg, Bedford, along the Pennsylvania Railroad to Conemaugh and Altoona; thence to Bellefonte, Lock Haven, Williamsport, Wilkesbarre, Mauch Chunk, Harrisburg, Gettsyburg and through Westminister to Washington, arriving home on August 9th, making a journey of six hundred and fifty miles in thirty-seven days. The lads were particularly interested in the charming and historic valley of Wyoming and the wild scenery of the Lehigh in the vicinity of Mauch Chunk. At the latter place they were hospitably entertained by General Albright. The only adventure on the route was the giving up out of one of Tom's horses named Rob Roy. The young leader, however, was equal to the emergency. He struck a trade for a black mare, owned in Bellefonte, paying one hundred and thirty dollars to boot. Upon arriving home the subject of Tom's trade passed under the inspection of the paternal eye and was pronounced a capital bargain. Each of the lads was provided with one hundred and fifty dollars for the journey and went the rounds within that limit. Young Sherman, however, had to draw on the home exchequer to meet the expenses of his trade. At several places the old farmers were considerably astonished at three such youngsters traveling alone. At one or two farm houses where they wished to purchase food and shelter for themselves and horses the antediluvian proprietors could not be persuaded to consent, evidently being in a considerable mental ferment as to the purposes of the juvenile equestrians.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 18, 1873.

The news received at the Indian Office indicates a continuance of the political disorders in the Indian Territory, occasioned by the rival interests and views of the public policy entertained by the full and half breeds. The Indians who inhabit this Territory are the descendants of the great tribes of Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks and Seminoles, who occupied the vast region south of the Ohio river and including Georgia and Florida. The Cherokees are suffering the greatest agitation and anxiety over the proposition of the half-breeds, who call themselves the progressive party, to divide up the lands and open them to settlement. What they particularly fear is the absorption of their country by land grants to railroad corporations. These Indian nations have a government of their own modeled after that of the United States; they have laws printed in the American tongue; they have churches, organized society and schools, and until within the past five years were peaceful and prosperous, raising cotton, cattle, hogs and ponies, and cultivating maize. To-day they are distracted and distrustful. There seems to be the greatest hostility against Elias Boudinot, a Cherokee of mixed blood and fine talents. He was educated by his nation to be their "counsellor advocate and friend." They charge him with having forsaken his people and with acting in collusion with the whites in schemes to rob the Indians of their lands. It appears that, in expectation of a change, Boudinot staked off a tract of four miles square including the crossing at Venita Cherokee country, of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas, formerly the Neosho Valley, and the Atlantic and Pacific Railroads. Trains already pass Venita, and the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad at Paris, Texas, have connections with the Southern roads. This makes the tract very valuable. The Cherokee law allows one of that nation, by blood or adoption, to claim, in his personal right, land for a quarter of a mile in all directions for their improvements. During the Forty-second Congress, a bill was before Congress to authorize the purchase of that amount of land adjacent to any number of improvements. This bill was never passed. It was shown then that it was in the interest of Boudinot's Venita tract. It will be necessary to take some measures to allay the fears of the Cherokees and the other tribes, but it is not evident how anything can be done before Congress meets.

The Death of William M. Meredith

leaves but four ex-Secretaries of the Treasury living, Francis Thomas, of Maryland, John A. Dix, of New York, Hugh McCulloch, of Indiana, and George S. Boutwell, of Massachusetts. The Treasury Department will be closed on the 21st instant, and remain draped in mourning for thirty days.

The Flood.

The unusual rains of the past week continue, greatly to the disadvantage of railway communication, not to speak of the interests of the farmers. The trains North have been irregular and mails uncertain.

FROM STOYESTOWN, PA.

Severe Rain and Hail Storm—The Whole Valley Flooded—Great Damage to Lumber, Mills, Crops and Other Property.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

STOYESTOWN, SOMERSET COUNTY, August 14th, 1873.

This locality was visited yesterday by one of the most terrific rain storms known in the history of this county. The rain commenced falling about twelve o'clock with such rapidity that tiny rivulets were in a few moments swollen to roaring torrents. The rain was accompanied with hail of large size, though the hailstones were fortunately not numerous. A great deal of damage has doubtless been done along all of the mountain watercourses, though the principal cases reported at this writing seem to have been along the banks of a small stream known as Beaver dam. A number of mills, principally lumber mills, are located upon this stream; of these all have sustained more or less damage. The dam of Bear's mills, near the headwaters of the stream, is known to have been swept away, and nearly all the bridges are supposed to be gone. Wide farmers along the banks of the stream also suffered heavy losses. The entire valley, averaging about one mile in width, was completely flooded, and everything in the way of the flood was swept away. The stream was literally covered, for some hours after the storm had passed, with lumber, fencing, rails, shocks of grain, stacks of hay, farming utensils, &c. No lives are known to have been lost. Several days must elapse before anything like an estimate can be made of the damage done.

Picked Up and Taken to Erie, Pa.

CLEVELAND, August 18.—The two sailors, Jesse Maloy and John Kennedy, who were supposed to be drowned when the barge Morton foundered last Wednesday night, were picked up by the schooner Harvest Home and taken to Erie. They were found on the floating lumber.

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

Collision on Chicago and Alton Road.

Criminal Carelessness of Employees.

Passengers Maimed and Scalded.

List of the Killed and Wounded.

CHICAGO, August 17.—A terrible accident occurred at half past ten last night near Lemont, on the Chicago and Alton Railroad. An incoming freight train collided with the south bound express passenger train, almost entirely wrecking the latter, killing six persons outright, and fearfully injuring some thirty-seven others, many of whom, it is said, will die. The cars caught fire, and numbers of the injured were burned badly, while others were scalded by hot water from the locomotive boiler. Lemont is about twenty miles south of this city, and the accident was not known here, except to railroad officials, until between twelve and one o'clock this morning, and then only to parties who happened to ascertain that surgeons had been sent for to go to the wrecked train. It is impossible to give full particulars at the present writing, but they will be sent later. Among those dangerously injured is Hon. J. W. Smith, Warden of the Illinois State Penitentiary.

LATER.

CHICAGO, August 17.—The total number of killed and dead of their injuries by the collision on the Chicago and Alton Railroad, near Lemont last night is, up to three o'clock this afternoon, eleven, and of wounded thirty-five. Following is a list furnished by the officials of the railroad, and is doubtless correct: Killed, John Netheler, an engineer belonging to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; two firemen belonging to the colliding trains, names unknown; Frank Bridges, apparently fireman; N. Divelbiz, Jr., Springfield, Ill.; Thomas Morton, porter at Andrews hotel, Chicago; R. J. Braces, of the firm of J. V. Farwell & Co., Chicago; two men whose bodies are yet unidentified. Injured, Capt. John A. Smith, Warden of the Illinois Penitentiary at Joliet, badly scalded and cannot recover; J. F. Fleury, purchasing agent for the Penitentiary at Joliet, fatally, and will scarcely live; Hugh Linehan, St. Louis, badly, probably fatally; M. C. Cantwell, Chicago, badly bruised; Wm. Mitchell, Duck's Island, Maine, badly scalded; Alex. Montseith, Duck's Island, badly scalded; Thomas Strong, Muskegan, Michigan, scalded; Thos. Crowley, Chicago, scalded; Wm. Curran, or Corain, Duck's Island, scalded; S. Lematte, Philadelphia, badly scalded; John Sherries, Glasgow, Scotland, badly hurt; Alexander Hackett, Duck's Island, scalded; A. Borden, scalded; John Whalen, Akron, on way to Darlington, back and hands scalded; Henry Small, Akron, Ohio, scalded; J. E. Cunningham, baggageman, leg broken; Jacob Cornbrant, Oshkosh, Wis., leg broken; James O'Neil, engineer of passenger train, legs broken; engineer of coal train, badly bruised; newsboy on passenger train brother of Geo. Kendall, Chicago, body and arms scalded; A. C. Hickman, artist, Chicago, badly scalded on head and hands and bruised; Jacob Klage, fatally; Jacob Conbrant, Oshkosh, Wis., will probably die; Isaac Mills, New York, slightly scalded; Martin Carleton, Bloomington, Ills., scalded; Albert Adams, Bloomington, scalded; Wm. Richardson, Chicago, scalded; Wm. Hamlin, Dwight, Ills., slightly scalded; John O'Keefe, Akron, O., and Jas. T. Doyle, scalded; John Spears, Chicago, scalded; M. St. John, Chicago, scalded. The trains did not catch fire as was reported this morning, and all the passengers killed or injured were in the second-class car, which was also used as a smoking car, and with the exception of the fireman, engineers and train men, the casualties were all caused by steam. None of the regular passenger coaches or sleepers were thrown from the track or in any way injured, and no one in any of them was hurt. The following account of the accident is from the statements of the officers of the road: The regular passenger train from St. Louis left at nine P. M. and consisted of baggage car, express and three day coaches (the head one being used as a smoking car), and two sleepers. At 10:20 P. M., when three miles north of Lemont and about twenty-two miles south of this city, at a point in the road where it ascended a coal train of thirty-five cars running at the rate of about twenty miles an hour, the passenger train was running at the rate probably of thirty miles an hour, and neither engineers saw the other's engine till it was too late to reverse; a fact accounted for by the curve in the road and partly by the dense fog. The trains came together with fearful force. Being in a curve, however, each engine left the track and passed the other, that attached to the coal train striking the baggage car a few feet from the end and shoving it off the track, breaking the coupling between it and the smoking car which the engine struck square in the end and with such force as to literally tear forward end in the air, so that the engine ran under it, tearing the floor completely out and hurling the fifty or sixty unfortunates who were in the car in a struggling mass to the lower end, where there was no chance of escape. And now occurred a scene, the horrors of which cannot adequately be described. The smoke-stack and dome of the engine were knocked off by the collision, and the broken timbers of the smoking car penetrated the boiler, allowing loose a dense volume of hot steam which poured into the car, blinding and scalding the helpless inmates, who, with heartrending shrieks, struggled vainly to extricate themselves. Mounting Conductor Russell, of the passenger train, who was unhurt, and a number of passengers from the rear coaches, came forward and endeavored to assist the poor victims; but there was little to do beyond taking from the wreck the dying and the wounded, many of whom were fearfully scalded. Seven dead bodies were soon taken out, and four have since died. The point where the accident occured is near what is known as "the Sag," a low, marshy meadow, about half way between Lemont and Willow Springs station and not a house in the neighborhood. The unhurt passengers, however, took bedding from the sleepers and ministered, as much as was possible under the circumstances, to the wounded, while Conductor Russell hurried on foot to Lemont and telegraphed to Superintendent McMullin here, for surgeons and aid. Mr. McMullin hastily got together half a dozen physicians, and a supply of such articles as were necessary and started about midnight with a special train for the scene of disaster, arriving there about 1:30 this morning. Everything possible was done for the sufferers, and at 6 o'clock this morning the train returned to this city, bringing the uninjured people of the wrecked train, and all the dead and wounded, except two firemen, who were left at Lemont for burial. On the arrival here, those of the wounded who reside here were taken to their homes, and the others were taken to hospitals, with the exception of Capt. Smith and Mr. Fluery, who were taken to the West Side Briggs House. Neither of these gentlemen, it is feared, can recover.

The cause of the accident was the criminal recklessness of the conductor and engineer of the coal train, whose duty it was to wait at Lemont till the passenger train had passed, unless they had received positive orders to proceed. This latter was not the case, and that the coal train should have said at Lemont. The conductor of the coal train is named Bean, and has been running the train for a year, and was considered a first-class man. He has not been seen since the disaster and is thought to have escaped and fled, as the last seen of him he was in the caboose of his train which was injured. No blame is attached to the officers of the passenger train, which is said to have been on time, and entitled to the right of the track. The track has been cleared of the wreck and trains will run out from here to-night as usual.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., August 18.—There is a great deal of indignation expressed here by citizens over the action of the officials, both great and small, of the Chicago and Alton Railroad, in keeping from the public, and even from the friends of the victims, the news of the slaughter of Saturday night on that road. Although the collision occurred at thirty minutes past ten, the fact was telegraphed to the Superintendent of the road at Chicago, and within an hour thereafter, not a word was sent to the friends of any of the wounded, and the matter was studiously kept from the press until it could no longer be silenced. The passengers on the ill-fated train, and who came down last night from Chicago state that until the arrival of the relief train in charge of Superintendent McMullen, everything that was done to release from the wreck the scalded victims had to be done by the uninjured passengers. The conductor, they say, left the wreck before a single person was extricated, and went to Lemont to telegraph to the Superintendent, while the passengers carried the wounded and dying from the wreck, and with such appliances as they had, ministered to their wants, tearing up the cushions from the sleeping cars for bandages and improvising beds for them. Two physicians came from Lemont soon after the collision occurred, but brought nothing in the way of medicines or instruments with them, and were therefore of little use. Miss Tracy, daughter of the editor of a Houston (Texas) paper, who was with her father on the train, is spoken in terms of the highest praise for her noble attentions to the wounded, whose condition was so horrible as to cause the stoutest heart to grow sick and faint.

When the relief train from Chicago arrived it brought everything necessary for the comfort of the poor victims, several of whom, however, died before they could receive relief in death. Some of the passengers state that it was 2:30 A. M. before the relief train arrived, and one gentleman asserted that it was 5 A. M. The greatest interest is felt here in regard to the condition of Major Smith and Mr. Flurry, both of whom were old citizens of this city. The entire public join the families of Captain Little and young Develbiss in their grief.

CHICAGO, August 18.—Maj. A. J. Smith and J. W. Flurry, of Springfield, Ill., victims of the Alton Railroad casualty, died here this morning at the West Side Briggs House.

CORONER'S INQUEST—THE FREIGHT ENGINEER ARRESTED.

CHICAGO, August 18.—Coroner Stephens has commenced an inquest on the disaster at Lemont. The agent at that point testified that he strongly protested against the freight train pushing forward and notified the train dispatcher at Bloomington that a slaughter was impending. The number of deaths from the event has reached eighteen. The managers of the road have caused the arrest of John Puffinberger, the freight engineer, and officers have been sent to Joliet for Edward Bean, the freight conductor.

The inquest on the bodies of those killed by the Chicago and St. Louis Railway disaster begun to-day. The Superintendent of the road, the station agent at Lemont, near which the accident occurred, and the conductor of the passenger train gave testimony. The tenor of the evidence went to show that the accident was caused by disobedience of the rules of the company by the conductor and engineer of the coal train, who should have waited till the passenger train had passed. The inquest will be continued to-morrow. The conductor and engineer of the coal train have been arrested on warrants of manslaughter sworn out by the attorney of the Railroad Company. Every effort will be made to convict them under the degree of manslaughter, though there being no statute bearing on the case. The deaths have been swelled to-day by the death of Hon. J. W. Smith, warden of the State Penitentiary, and J. W. Fleury, purchasing agent of the same institution.

A complete list of the deaths is as follows: John W. Smith, Joliet; J. W. Fleury, Joliet; Wm. Little, Springfield, Ill.; Roger F. Brass, Chicago; Thos. Morton, Chicago; Jos. O'Neil, Joliet; Theo. Stenz, Texas; Jacob Condit, Oshkosh, Wis.; Geo. Frendel, Chicago; Geo. Seaver, Chicago; U. Divelbies, Springfield; Conrad Wilgus, Chicago; Jacob Lanser, Joliet; Wm. Davis, Chicago; Joseph B. Mehlie, Jackson, Tenn.; John Metzler, Joliet, Ill.; and an unknown man. The wounded number nearly forty, a few of whom will die.

FROM GALLIPOLIS, O.

Shooting by a Jealous Woman—Murder by a Colored Man—Robberies—Teachers' Institute—&c., &c.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

GALLIPOLIS, O., August 15, 1873.

On Thursday one Mrs. Sullivan, living in Huntington township, shot Mary Tyler, mistaking her for her sister Martha, with whom her husband had been on too intimate terms. The wounded woman is in a precarious condition. Mrs. Sullivan, immediately after shooting, left for parts unknown.

Two negroes, Claive Davis and Moe Keenedy, got into a difficulty on Saturday afternoon, near the city, about a woman, when Davis shot four times at Kennedy, the last shot taking effect in the abdomen, lodging near the backbone. Kennedy died on Tuesday night from the effects of the wound. Davis escaped, and will probably not be apprehended.

The money drawer in the mill of R. Aleshire & Co. was relieved of one hundred and fifty dollars yesterday afternoon. The two professionals who were following Van Amburgh's show, then in the city. No arrests. The tailor shop of Wm. Rust was burglarized last night and between and five hundred dollars worth of goods taken. An entrance was effected by prying open the front door. Parties are on the track of the offenders.

The Gallia county Teachers' Institute is now in session in this city. Over one hundred teachers are present. President Tappan is expected next week and Prof. Kidd the week following.

The first Farmers' Grange in this county was organized last week in Greene township, with nineteen members.

Local prohibitionists have placed a full ticket in the field, which, from indications, will command a good vote.

In the race between Minnie Moore and Cashier, on the Fair Ground Company's track, for a purse of five hundred dollars, Minnie won; time 57 seconds.

Over 60,000 bushels of new wheat have been received in this market since the harvest. Much to come in yet.

FROM MANSFIELD, O.

The Horrible Design of Blowing Up a Family Frustrated.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

MANSFIELD, O., August 14, 1873.

A horrible plot has just been brought to light here, in time to prevent the destruction of a whole family. A suit is now pending in Court against Wm. H. Dobbs, a farmer living six miles north of here, for an attempted outrage on a little girl named Bernard, living in his neighborhood, and to prevent the girl or her father appearing as witnesses Dobbs procured the services of two low characters in this city, named Winfield and Lightfoot, to blow up Barnard's house. Winfield exposed the plot in time to prevent its execution, which was to take place on the night of 13th. Lightfoot was arrested and a quantity of powder and fuses found in his possession. Dobbs was also arrested and the two have been bound over to keep the peace.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

MANSFIELD, O., August 17, 1873.

Last evening, at Howes's menagerie, an intoxicated man named Thomas McCune thrust his arm through the bars of the cage of lions, when one of the animals seized him by the wrist, dragging him from his feet and close against the bars. The lion was forced to let go only after several blows had been given him by the keeper. The man's wrist was bitten through and through and terribly lacerated. The scene was a terrible one, and almost produced a panic.

Preparations are going forward for the State Fair to commence September 1st. Col. J. E. Wharton has been appointed by the City Council to arrange for the accommodation of visitors. Under his energetic supervision there is not likely to be a lack in the way of entertainment.

FROM LOCK HAVEN, PA.

Largest Sale of Land Ever Made in Clearfield County—Four Thousand Acres for $550,000.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LOCK HAVEN, PA., August 16, 1873.

Patrick Flynn, of Gulick township, Clearfield county, sold to-day to McCauley & Co., of Altoona, four thousand acres of land in said township, for five hundred and fifty thousand dollars, reserving from the property four hundred acres in four farms, a saw mill, grist mill and sixteen houses and lots in Janesville, worth twenty-five thousand dollars. He also has other property in the county, which consists of pine timber, worth a quarter of a million. One-third of the property sold was bought by Mr. Flynn, R. R. Bridges and W. T. Simpson, of Lock Haven, seven years ago, for thirty-six thousand dollars. Twenty months ago Mr. Flynn bought Mr. Bridges' interest for twenty-five thousand, and to-day paid Mr. Moore fifty thousand for his share. Mr. Flynn nets four hundred and fifty thousand dollars by the transaction. In 1854 he settled in Clearfield county a poor man, and is to-day worth eight hundred thousand dollars. This sale to McCauley & Co. is the largest ever made in Clearfield county. He predicts that they will clear a million on their purchase. The land is heavily covered with pine, and underlaid with coal.

FROM IRONTON, OHIO.

The Providence Association of Colored Baptists—Close of the Thirty-Eighth Annual Session—Two Thousand Colored Persons in Attendance—Place of Next Meeting.

Special Dispatch to Commercial.

IRONTON, OHIO, August 18, 1873.

The thirty-eighth annual session of the Providence Association of Colored Baptists closed here yesterday, having been in session since Wednesday last. This Association embraces portions of Southern Ohio, Eastern Kentucky and West Virginia, in all twenty-three churches, besides some visiting churches. Yesterday it was very wet and raining all day, but as it was, there were, it is computed, 2,000 colored visitors in Ironton in attendance upon the Association. Some walked as far as twenty-five miles to get here, while five or six steamboats came from above here, loaded with the enthusiastic brethren. Union Hall and the Court House, as well as both the colored churches of the city were occupied by them yesterday. The Association discussed the propriety of establishing a seminary within its limits, more especially for the education of its ministers. The next session will be held at New Hope church, Racoon township, Gallia county, Ohio.

FROM XENIA, OHIO.

Breaking Up of Camp Meeting—Attempted Escape from Jail of a Condemned Murderer.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

XENIA, OHIO, August 18, 1873.

The camp meeting which has been in progress here for ten days, conducted by the Methodist Episcopal Church, closed to-day. Many of their ablest ministers were present and large crowds of both white and colored were in attendance.

Richeson, the murderer of Fagwell, who is in jail here awaiting execution on the 17th of October, managed last Friday evening, by the aid of a piece of saw blade furnished him by some unknown person to saw his manacles off, and when Deputy Sheriff Kyle went into his cell Richeson began an assault at once, but Kyle made his way out, locking the door behind him. He got assistance, returned and Richeson is again in heavy irons.

JEFF. DAVIS SPEAKS.

The South Cheated, Not Conquered

The Men Possibly Reconstructed.

The Women and Children Never

Admiral Semmes Prays for Papers.

RICHMOND, VA., August 18.—Jefferson Davis addressed the Southern Historical Convention at White Sulphur Springs to-day. In speaking of the late war he said: "We have been more cheated than conquered by the declarations of the Federal President, Congress and Generals; for there never could have been a surrender had we anticipated what followed, and we to-day would have been free." He still had hope of the South, because, whatever men might be, he never yet had seen reconstructed women; and while the men of to-day are mightier than the principles for which they had struggled, he yet hoped the children who succeed them would grow up to maintain and perpetuate them and redeem all that we had lost. Mr. Davis's remarks contained no sentiment of hostility to the Federal Government. A resolution was offered by Admiral Semmes, that his Excellency President Grant be requested to permit the Secretary of this society to examine all papers in the archives of the government captured by the Federal forces from the Confederates during the war and to make copies of such of them as he may think fit. The resolution was adopted. The convention then adjourned and the Historical society met. A resolution was adopted admitting ladies who had lost relatives in the war to membership. The society then adjourned to meet in Richmond at the call of the President.

THE WAWASSET DISASTER.

The Official Investigation—Testimony of the Captain and Engineer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 18.—The examination into the Wawasset disaster was commenced to-day at the Treasury Department before George W. Taylor, Acting Superintendent Inspector General of Steamboats; Wm. Rose, Inspector of Hulls at Savannah, Ga., and John E. Edgar, Inspector of Boilers at Norfolk. The main matters of inquiry were, first, the equipment of the steamer; second, the origin of the fire; third, the conduct of the licensed officers both prior and subsequent to the disaster given. The first witnesses examined were James D. Lowery, Inspector of Hulls, and William O. Saville, Inspector of Boilers, at Baltimore, who made like and inspected the vessel, whose testimony it appeared that the steamer was thoroughly inspected in March last, and everything which the law requires was found there, which is unimportant.

Captain Wood, of the Wawasset, at the time of the alarm of fire, said he called to the passengers to keep cool, as he did not see any reason for excitement. He thought there would be time to put out the fire, but in less time than he could now relate the facts, the flames burst out in heavy volumes. The pilot was licensed by the United States, but the captain was not. It was impossible for him to get aft after the fire was discovered. What he did on that occasion he would repeat under future similar circumstances. He thought the fire originated in the fireman's room. No doubt the fire had been burning for some time before it broke out and ignited which gave a draft to the flames. The engineer was driven from his room in an instant. The mate and clerk generally have charge of the baggage and freight, but at the time of the fire they were trying to save the passengers. Nobody was specially attending to the boats and life-preservers at the time of the fire. Only one passenger was lost forward. The captain said there were on board one hundred and twenty-five passengers, not counting children. The license also stated that the boat was permitted to carry only fifty passengers. The captain said he was under the impression he was allowed to carry one hundred and fifty passengers. Fifty passengers would not pay the expenses of the steamer. The boat was well provided with all the appliances for saving the boat and lives. There were between four and five hundred life preservers, two of which were shown to have been used. Not a soul would have been lost if the engines had not suddenly stopped.

Robert Nash, engineer of the boat, was examined. He said the tillers were chain and rods, and part of rope from ten feet each side of the wheel. He had always found the firemen attentive to business. The steamer was as well equipped as any boat could be. Nothing whatever was the matter with the boiler to cause the fire. All that was possible for him was done to save the passengers. The flames appeared so suddenly, and the boat was so soon on fire, that no one had time to think.

Mr. Saville was then recalled and he had known Nash four years. He was a strictly sober and competent engineer, and was always found at his post. His character was good.

The chief mate, number three crew and several passengers were examined, but nothing new was elicited. The testimony was to the effect that there was no chance for those aft to reach the train while it was passing through a tunnel and escaped. It is thought that the officers are close on their track and they will be apprehended soon. The goods have not been recovered. A reward has been offered for the apprehension of the thieves.

FROM WASHINGTON, PA.

Serious Accident in a Saw Mill—A Horse Stolen.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, PA., August 16, 1873.

William Brownlee, who lives a few miles west of here, met with a serious accident a day or two ago. He was at work with a large portable saw mill, and in some way one of his legs was caught by a belt and drawn in between two wheels. He was so tightly caught that it stopped the engine. His leg was broken above the ankle, the bone protruding through the skin, and his leg was crushed from the ankle to the knee.

A valuable horse was stolen yesterday morning from A. H. Little, cabinet maker, of this place. The thief and horse have been traced to Pittsburgh and from there along the Monongahela river, but have not yet been overtaken.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, PA., August 18, 1873.

The regular August term of our Court began to-day, owing to the sickness and absence of Judge Acheson, the presiding Judge. No important cases will be tried.

FROM FORT WAYNE, IND.

Funeral of Hon. William Stewart—An Eastern Connection for the Detroit, Eel River and Illinois Railroad.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, IND., August 18, 1873.

The funeral of Hon. William Stewart took place this afternoon, and was attended by the city officials in a body. The Masons and Knights Templar performed the funeral ceremonies. The funeral was one of the largest ever known in this city.

An arrangement has been entered into between the Fort Wayne, Jackson and Saginaw, and the Detroit, Eel River and Illinois Railroads, whereby the former company gives the use of six miles of their road, from Auburn Junction, Indiana, to Waterloo, Indiana, thus enabling the latter railroad to make through Eastern connections with the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad. The Detroit, Eel River and Illinois Railroad has been entirely cut off from direct Eastern connections since the failure of the proposed consolidation of that road with the Detroit, Hillsdale and Indiana, and the Fort Wayne, Jackson and Saginaw Railroads.

WEST ALEXANDER, PA.

A Store Robbed of Goods and Money to the Value of Two Hundred Dollars—The Thieves Escape.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WEST ALEXANDER, PA., August 18, 1873.

Some time Sunday night two thieves entered the store of J. N. Sights, at Vienna, three miles east of this place, and stole dry goods to the value of two hundred dollars, also a small amount of currency. This morning the thieves took the train, and on being confronted with a charge of committing the larceny jumped from the train while it was passing through a tunnel and escaped. It is thought that the officers are close on their track and they will be apprehended soon. The goods have not been recovered. A reward has been offered for the apprehension of the thieves.

FROM CADIZ, OHIO.

Departure of Minister Bingham and Family for Japan, Accompanied by Other Friends.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CADIZ, O., August 18, 1873.

Hon. John A. Bingham and family, accompanied by the family of Hon. Eli T. Sheppard, Consul to Tientsin, China, left Cadiz at five P. M. to-day. Quite a number of friends go with them part of the way and others are to join them at Council Bluffs, Iowa, and sail with them from San Francisco in the steamer Japan September first.

POLITICAL.

State.

BROOKVILLE, PA., August 14, 1873.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Last evening our lively town was thrown into great excitement on receiving from all parts of the State dispatches announcing that Hon. I. G. Gordon, of Brookville, had received the nomination for Supreme Judge. Many of our citizens wound their way to the Judge's residence, and tendered their congratulations and their support in securing his election. Judge Gordon will without any doubt receive the entire Republican vote, and I may safely say at least two-thirds of the Democratic vote of this county.

The Chester correspondent of the Philadelphia *Press* writes: "The Democrats, with a view to contest the election of Mr. Ballard, the Republican candidate for the Legislature, propose nominating Lieut. Joseph Pratt, of Thornbury. This gentleman has a good war record, is irreproachable, and, if chosen will command the suffrages of his party, as well as the support of those outside who are not satisfied with the Media nominations. Colonel Talley, of the *Democrat*, has been solicited to accept the nomination by many who believe him to be the strongest candidate. In Democratic Senatorial probabilities we have Charles Lloyd, of Darby township, and Tyron Lewis, of Ridley."

The Republicans of Berks held their county meeting at Reading on the 11th, and it was the largest ever got together by the party there. The appointment of chairman of the County Committee was left to the Delegate Convention, which will be held on the 20th of September. The resolutions adopted reaffirm the fidelity of the Republicans of Berks to the great principles of the Republican party; heartily indorse the second term of President Grant; express entire satisfaction with the administration of Governor Hartranft; oppose railroad and corporation monopolies; indorse the Farmers' Grange movement; favor protection against foreign competition, and the fullest recognition of civil and political rights to the colored people; approve the abolition of the franking privilege; censure the Congressmen who voted for or received the "back pay;" recommend regular assessments for State and county officers instead of fees; thank the Hon. Henry Van Reed for his action in the Constitutional Convention.

At the Chester county meeting, on the 11th, Hon. Washington Townsend, M. C., and Hon. William Darlington, members of the Constitutional Convention, delivered short addresses. The resolutions adopted approve the acts of President Grant's administration; indorse the conduct of Governor Hartranft and Hon. Washington Townsend, our member of Congress; recommend economy in State and National affairs; careful legislation by our Senators and Representatives at Harrisburg, and assert that by judicious and honest management the Republican party can effect still greater good and retain the confidence of the people. At Republican County Convention will be held in the Horticultural Hall, West Chester, this day two weeks, August 26, to nominate a county ticket. The delegate election will be held the previous Saturday, August 23. The offices to be filled are State Senator, two members of the House of Representatives, Associate Judge, County Treasurer, County Commissioner, Jury Commissioner, Director of the Poor, and Auditor. The following named gentleman have been announced as candidates for the Senatorship of the Senate has been conceded to Delaware county, for which position the Hon. Thos. V. Cooper was nominated by the Convention held in that county on the 21st ult. The two members of Representatives we have John A. Groff, George F. Smith, Wm. Shields, Jas. H. Ball and Samuel Hannum, residents of West Chester; David W. Branson, of West Goshen township; Peter G. Carey and Levi B. Kaler, of the borough of Phœnixville; E. W. Bailey, of West Sadsbury township, and John Liggett, of West Nantmeal; for County Commissioner, Evan Dampman, of West Nantmeal; John Grey, of the same township, and John Murray, of East Nantmeal. For County Treasurer—Joshua Pugh, Newlin; Thos. B. Downes, West Vincent; Albert Kenney, West Chester; O. L. Woodward, West Vincent; John G. Moses, Phœnixville; Jesse E. Phillips, East Nantmeal; Theodore Sloan, of the Township, and George W. Carver, of Kennett Square.

The Huntingdon county Republican Convention met in Huntingdon on Tuesday, and passed resolutions expressing confidence in the general government; approving the administration of Governor Hartranft; indorsing the course of Senator Scott; repudiating the Huntingdon *Globe*, and declares it unworthy of confidence; endorsing as plaudity as was L. Guss as Representative Delegate to the State Convention, and electing H. G. Fisher in his place. A. L. Guss, with nine of the eighty-eight delegates composing the Convention, withdrew, organized and denounced the regular Convention, and then adjourned to await the action of the Democratic County Convention.

The Columbia county Democratic Convention met in Bloomsburg on the 12th, and nominated C. B. Brockway unanimously for Representative. Michael Grover for Sheriff, John Snyder for Treasurer, and John Herner for Commissioner.

The York county Democratic Convention met in York on the 12th and nominated the best ticket for a long time, all the political "hacks" were ruthlessly pitched overboard, and new men nominated. The Court House and Poor House "rings" and voucher thief ring were all broken. Hendrick T. Scott, an employee of the Pennsylvania Railroad was nominated for Director of the Poor.

The following are the nominations made by the Cumberland county Democratic Convention, held on Monday, at Carlisle. The attendance was good, every township and borough being represented: For Assembly, Wm. H. Miller, Middleton; Sheriff, Col. Jos. Totten, of Mechanicsburg; County Commissioner, Jacob Barber, of Lower Allen; County Treasurer, Levan Orris, of Mifflin.

The Democracy of Cameron county met in Convention on Monday, August 11, and placed in nomination the following ticket: For Assembly, David P. Baird Prothonotary, J. M. Judd; County Commissioner, J. K. Morrison; County Auditor, A. H. Boynton.

The Temperance men of Erie county held a Convention in Erie, on Wednesday, at which twenty delegates were present. I. R. Taylor, Democrat, of Washington township, and Rev. J. W. Wilson, of Corry, were nominated for Assembly. Spangler, the Temperance candidate for Auditor General in 1871, received 62 votes in Erie county.

The Washington *Reporter* says: A dissatisfied correspondent of the *Advance* wants an independent Legislative candidate, and suggests the following names: "J. Norris Walker, Joseph B. Welsh, J. N. McDonald, Finley Patterson, Wm. J. Alexander, John A. Hopper, and Gen. Thos. Jackson, of Washington." We imagine these gentlemen will not thank Mr. "Reform" for using their names in this connection.

It is reported that a straight-out Democratic paper is shortly to be started in Titusville.—*Harrisburg Patriot.*

What says the *Courier* to this impeachment of its political orthodoxy?

The Democratic Convention of Centre county, met in Bellefonte on Tuesday and placed in nomination the following ticket: Senator, P. Gray Meek, of the Bellefonte *Watchman*; Assembly, John H. Orvis; Treasurer, J. B. Mitchell; Commissioner, John G. Jarkey.

The Republicans of Cumberland county have nominated the following ticket: Assembly, G. P. Humrich; Sheriff, George J. Deitrich; Treasurer, H. B. Hoch; Commissioner, Samuel Epply; Poor Dirctor, John Moul (3 years), David Foglesonger (2

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1873.

THE Bedford county Democratic Convention failed to denounce the salary grab. Mayor, the Democratic Representative from that district in the last Congress, voted for it, and holds on to his increased pay. His party friends, therefore, mercifully refrained from treading on his toes.

HON. W. S. MOORE, of the Washington district, and Hon. H. L. RICHMOND, of the Meadville district, members elect of the next Congress, have both been charged with having importuned their friends in the last Congress to vote for the increased salary amendment, and both have distinctly denied the charge; yet we find the charge steadily traveling the rounds of the Democratic press.

VALLANDIGHAM ran for Governor, in Ohio, as the anti-war candidate, in 1863, and was beaten 100,000. His chief supporter in that fight was WILLIAM ALLEN, the Democratic candidate for Governor in 1873. Ten years have elapsed since ALLEN thus tried to turn back the tide of the war, and in all that time neither ALLEN nor his party has learned anything. Both stand, to-day, just where they stood then.

THE United States District Court of Nebraska decides that counties cannot tax the land given by the United States to the Union Pacific Railroad, because the United States having never issued patents for it, the title is still in the government; and now it appears that the United States refuses to patent the land because the railroad is not completed, or has not been legally declared completed. It follows that purchasers of the land already sold by the company have no title and can get none until the railroad gets one; and the railroad is thus placed in the position of having sold lands and guaranteed the title to them, without possessing any title thereto.

THE Democrats of Maine passed a resolution declaring that the Republicans, being in a majority in Congress, were responsible, not only for the back-pay, but for all the evils of which the country complains, "*including the seduction of Democratic members of Congress to* the corrupt schemes of the Republican party." If the Democratic members of Congress are so easily seduced, what is the use of electing them? Clearly, a party whose representative men are, the Maine Democratic Convention being judge, open to the seductions of the other party, is not the party to right the wrongs which its own men have helped to perpetrate.

THE Mennonites who recently arrived at New York have chosen Minnesota for their future home, and it is noteworthy that all the immigrants from the North of Europe choose their American home as far North as they can get. A Western farmer once assured us that when a Pennsylvanian went West he invariably chose the prairie, in preference to the hilly or rolling lands, for, having wrestled all his life with the hills, he naturally turned to the soil that would be the easiest cultivated; while, on the other hand, the immigrants from Holland, and similar regions, invariably chose the hilly land, being tired of the monotony of flat surfaces. We would invariably suppose that this inclination to something different from what a man has been used to would also extend to climate, but it does not, the Northern man does not seek the South, nor the Southern man the North, but each tries to get as near as he can to the climate he has been accustomed to. The rule of contraries is not, therefore, uniform in its operations.

ACCORDING to MR. JEFFERSON DAVIS, the South was not conquered, but cheated. He would have us believe that the South surrendered, not to our army but to our diplomatists, who cheated it with false promises; and yet, when the whole truth is known, it was *he* who cheated the South with false promises, and prevented the earlier closing of the war upon terms which the South could have accepted. After the interview of LINCOLN with the Southern Commissioners at Fortress Monroe, and when MR. DAVIS had learned that the United States government had offered the most favorable terms to the Rebels, he converted the famous meeting at the African church in Richmond, withheld from it the actual terms offered by MR. LINCOLN, and stirred up the South to further resistance by the wilful lie told to that meeting that the United States government would hear of no terms short of abject submission. The down fall of Richmond and the battles around it followed, resulting in the final surrender at Appomattox. The South was fairly whipped into that surrender, and it knows it; and the only cheating indulged in was that employed by MR. DAVIS himself, to prolong a struggle that, to all honest eyes, was hopeless.

IF THE testimony taken in the case of the railroad horror on the Chicago and Alton Road proves anything it proves that that important thoroughfare has but a single track, and that its conductors and engineers run their trains on their own responsibility, without orders from any superior source. The station agent at Lemont says he begged the conductor and engineer of that freight train not to start out, but to wait for the down passenger train; and that, solely of their own accord, they started their train out, with the sad results of which known, on any well regulated single track road, all trains would be run by telegraph, under the guidance of one man, and no conductor of a freight train would dare to leave a station without telegraphic orders from headquarters. The willful obstinacy and pigheadedness of the officers of this freight train cannot be too severely condemned or punished; but the plainly apparent lack of system and discipline on the part of the managers of the road is just as worthy of condemnation. Like master like servant. If the managers of the road are careless, and reckless, and unsystematic, the employees will be no less so; and we are forced to the conclusion, from all the evidence in the case, that the Chicago and Alton Road is miserably managed, and that its conductors and engineers, although bad as bad can be, are no worse than those who, by their culpable negligence and inefficiency, have rendered it possible for such things to occur. It will be all right to catch and hang that conductor and engineer, but pray do not let the hanging stop there.

WEST VS. EAST.

A good geography of the State of Pennsylvania would be of some service to the Harrisburg correspondent of the Philadelphia *Press*. He not only persists in giving Judge MERCUR to the west, but adds MR. DIMMICK, the Attorney General, MR. STRANG, Speaker of the Senate, and MR. OLMSTEAD, President of the Republican State Convention to the western list. MR. DIMMICK is from Wayne, an eastern county; MR. STRANG from Tioga, and MR. OLMSTEAD from Potter—both northeastern counties, and neither having the slightest connection with the west.

The east, according to this correspondent, gets nothing, and the west gets everything. Let us see. The Governor is from the east; the Surveyor General, the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General are from the east; the Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth is from the center, but east of the mountains; the President of the Constitutional Convention was from Philadelphia; the Speaker of the House has been in the east for five years, and Philadelphia has held that place for four years out of the five; the Superintendent of Common Schools is from the east; and so, likewise, is the Superintendent of the Insurance Department. The west has the State Treasurer, the Auditor General, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, two of the present Supreme Bench, and the candidate for the third place. We see nothing in the comparison to indicate that the west is getting more than its share. As to counting the location of the State Committee against the west, that is preposterous. *That* is no office; and if any one in the east is anxious for the place, he is heartily welcome to it. The west gets it only because the east does not seem to want it.

As to the west getting more than her share, let us count the past with the present. The west has had but *one* Attorney General —CORNELIUS DARRAH, in 1849; with that exception that office has been held by the east ever since 1790; and the west, strictly speaking, has had but two Governors since 1790—JOHNSON and RITNER. SHUNK was nominally living in Allegheny county when elected, but was, in reality, a Montgomery county man. The Secretaries of the Commonwealth, too, until MR. QUAY have uniformly been eastern men. MR. RUSSELL having been appointed from Bedford, although afterward a resident here, and a western man was never elected Auditor General, or if 1871. The first election to that office too, place in 1850, and prior to that JOHN N. PURVIANCE was the only western man appointed to it. Of the Surveyors General since 1800 the west has had but three, who served but twelve years; and of the State Treasurers since 1802, the west has had but ten of the thirty, and but twenty out of the seventy-one years. The Superintendents of Common Schools have *all* been from the east; and the east has always, until the present, had the Attorneys of the Supreme Judges. Since 1851, Judges were first elected, the west has had only COULTER, LOWRIE, BLACK, AGNEW and WILLIAMS—six out of fifteen—and COULTER died shortly after he was elected.

For ourselves, we give no heed to this cry of locality. It may be wise and prudent in political parties to take it into consideration; but in reality it matters nothing where a candidate comes from. As a matter of fact, the west has not, generally, had its full share; and if, for the moment, she has a temporary advantage, it is to be attributed to the varying chances of politics, and not to any sudden access of strength.

Let us add that what is geographically called "the West," is that portion of the State west of the Allegheny range of mountains. The northern counties have no connection with the west, and are geographically cut off from it. The centre of the State is nearer and easier of access, but its sympathies and connections are mainly with the east. While we are content, therefore, to have the west charged with all she gets, we protest against being debited with offices given to the north and centre. Let every tub stand on its own bottom.

A REVIVAL WORSE THAN DEATH.

Persons who believe in the utility of religion, especially of the Christian religion, as an element in national character and in political institutions, might well regard with satisfaction any trustworthy signs which seemed to indicate its revival among the French people. France being Romanist in so far as it is Christian, many liberal Protestants would, we suppose, readily admit that a general revival there of piety of the Catholic type would be a rather hopeful omen regarding the national future, as any historical form of Christianity is better both for the individual and society, than the ignoble secularism or atheism of French radicals. As a matter of fact, some religious people, not partial to Romanism, hail the pilgrimages and the devout professions which have become so common in France as good auguries of possible national regeneration, with political quiet and conservatism. There is, however, much reason to think that such hopes are quite delusive, and founded on misapprehension of the real character of the phenomena.

In the first place, the movement is not a strictly French agitation. While the persons sincerely stirred by it, deplore their own and their nation's sins and, seeking pardon for the past, vow better things in future, they are assiduously taught to identify their revived religious fervor with increased devotion to the Holy See. Thus, in the minds of the pilgrims, while piety and patriotism are blended, both are subordinated to the Papal power which, of France, in that ancient religio-political system which has for so many centuries been the disturber of the peace of Europe in general and of France in particular. Readers may have noticed that in Italy and in England the Papal hierarchy are endeavoring to interest their subjects in the great restoration aimed at, by taking advantage of the French movement. In the former country the government interfered with their plans, but the pilgrimages organized by Archbishop MANNING will, no doubt, be performed according to programme. Hence, it is clear that the so-called religious revival in France is merely a part of a grand scheme of reaction, which regards the whole Papal world, and which is designed to uphold Popery or Ultramontane Catholicism, against liberalism and modern civilization.

In the second place, the leaders of the French movement entrage the sense and sensibilities even of many educated Catholics by their reckless avowal of superstitious dreams as articles of faith. This effect of their proceedings was strikingly apparent lately in the National Assembly, when it was proposed to erect an "expiatory church" on the heights of Montmartre. Catholics were generally in favor of the church which had been recommended by a high ecclesiastical dignity, but the religious party *par eminence* wished for something more. They demanded that the edifice should be dedicated to "The Sacred Heart of Jesus," and that the object of its erection should be formally declared to be to "draw down the divine compassion on the capital." The Assembly was also required to recognize the consecration of the church as "an act of public utility." It is little to say that the debate on the subject was such a debate as never before took place in any legislative body. An American notices with curiosity that, one of the most devoted advocates of the measure supported it by an appeal to the example of the United States and England in "prostrating themselves before God." He probably alluded to our days of fasting and prayer during the war, and perhaps to Thanksgiving day. The reference was wholly out of place, we need hardly say. M. DE PRESSENSE, the learned and eloquent Protestant pastor, reminded the Assembly that it was not a political body, and that neither right nor call to legislate about "the *things* of conscience, which is the exclusive domain of the Divinity." He also reminded members that the devotion of the Sacred Heart—for which the sanction of the Assembly was asked—was a disputed point within the Catholic Church, having been condemned even by Popes and having been opposed by all the best portions of the Church of France from GERSON to PASCAL. And then followed a stormy contest which lasted for six or seven hours. The bill, so modified as to omit reference to the Sacred Heart, was passed by a large majority.

It is, however, this objectionable and in some sort heretical worship which now attracts tens of thousands of pilgrims to Paray-le-Monial, celebrated for the visions of MARIE ALACQUE. There, according to her own account, she saw "the heart of JESUS, more brilliant than the sun, in the midst of the flames of pure love, and surrounded by seraphim, who in admirable harmony, sang:

L'amour triomphe, l'amour joui,
L'amour du saint coeur rejouit.

Though venerated French bishops have spoken of the biography of this MARIE ALACQUE as "one of the most mischievous books of its class, as revolting the world both inside and outside of the Church, as filling good men with horror and affording subjects of raillery to libertines," and though Catholic physicians have professed their belief in her insanity, the sense of her vision is one of the chief places to which pilgrims of all ranks resort. It is not surprising to learn that among the objects there sold or given to devotees of the uninstructed class are specimens of the straw on which PIUS the Ninth reposes in the dungeon in which he is confined by his relentless enemies. In fact, these straws furnish a key to the meaning of the entire movement. Instead of suggesting grounds of hope for France, the revival is manifestly of the kind which is always followed by disastrous reaction and more utter spiritual deadness, and the sooner the rest of the world so understands it the better. One of the most significant, and at the same time alarming, features of the movement is the extent to which it is favored by dignitaries of the Catholic Church, which during so many ages resisted superstitious and servile dogmas from beyond the Alps.

THERE have been, within a few years, several heavy defalcations among county officers in Ohio, and the counties in which those defalcations happened have uniformly been Democratic. The latest instance is in Fairfield county, where the county treasury has been robbed of over $100,000 by a Democratic office holder. There is, of course, a natural tendency on the part of Democratic officers to make party capital out of such facts; and the Cincinnati *Enquirer* as naturally puts in a caveat against this tendency. It says:

"We publish this morning an extended account of the Fairfield county dishonesty. The defaulters, we believe, were Democrats. *The men who exposed them were Democrats.*"

This is undoubtedly the correct stand to take. A party is responsible for the dishonesty of its officials, where it seeks to cover up their acts or prevent their exposure and punishment, as in New York city; but where the exposure is promptly made, by the party friends of the accused, and there is no attempt at concealment or excuse, there is no ground for holding the party responsible for the dishonest acts of its members.

This, however, has not been the course generally pursued by the Democratic press toward Republicans. In the Credit Mobilier case, the Republican party ferreted out the facts and exposed and punished the facts in the case; yet the Democratic papers have, with one accord, tried to make party capital out of the exposures.

If, then, the idea thrown out, in this Ohio case, by the *Enquirer*, that where honest Democrats expose the dishonest ones, the party is not to be held responsible for the dishonesty, be correct, then, by parity of reasoning, the Republican party should not be held responsible for the Credit Mobilier dishonesty. And if, on the other hand, the Republicans *are* to be held responsible in the Credit Mobilier case, then the Democratic party in Ohio must be held to account for the dishonesty in Fairfield and other counties, no matter who made the exposures. The rule works both ways.

The captain of a trading vessel says that while at Byron's Island, in the South Pacific, some months since, he saw the Royal Sir Roger Tichborne, all tattooed from head to heel, and holding rank as a chief among the natives. He should hardly be disinguished as a white man. Referring to an account of the Tichborne trial, he said to the Captain: "I am the rightful heir to that title and property, and all that is here stated in this paper is false. How can I appear in England to claim my just rights? There is no escape from here." We hope he will try and be content with his exalted position among the people of Byron's Island, for if he should go to England there would be less chance of our ever hearing the last of this case, and there seems little chance even now.

REPUBLICAN STATE TICKET.

FOR JUDGE OF SUPREME COURT,
HON. ISAAC G. GORDON, of Jefferson County.

FOR STATE TREASURER,
HON. ROBERT W. MACKEY, of Allegheny County.

REPUBLICAN COUNTY TICKET.

PRESIDENT JUDGE, DISTRICT COURT,
HON. THOMAS EWING, Pittsburgh.

ASSOCIATE JUDGE, DISTRICT COURT,
HON. J. W. F. WHITE, Sewickley.

STATE SENATE.
HON. GEORGE H. ANDERSON, Pittsburgh

ASSEMBLY.
First City District,
HENRY H. MCCORMICK, Pittsburgh.
Second City District,
S. J. WAINWRIGHT, Pittsburgh.
County Districts,
J. C. NEWMYER, Wilkins.
A. B. YOUNG, Robinson.
A. C. HAYS, Pittsburgh (South Side).
B. C. CHRISTY, Sewickley.
HENRY GERWIG, Allegheny.

PROTHONOTARY,
B. F. KENNEDY, Pittsburgh.

COUNTY TREASURER,
Capt. SAMUEL KILGORE, Pittsburgh.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER,
AUGUSTUS BECKERT, Pittsburgh.

JURY COMMISSIONER,
Capt. JOHN MCCLELLAND, West Deer.

CORONER,
WILLIAM MCCALLIN, Pittsburgh.

DIRECTOR OF THE POOR,
THOMAS VARNER, Baldwin.

POLITICAL.

State.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS LEAGUE.

WILKESBARRE, PA., August 19.—The ninth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania State Equal Rights League was held here to-day, President Nesbitt in the chair. Resolutions were adopted declaring adherence to the Republican party, endorsing President Grant as a true friend and patriot, and recognizing the administration of Hon. William Pitt Kellogg, the constitutional choice or the State of Louisiana, legalized by the Courts, acknowledged by the President, sanctioned by public sentiment, and acquiesced in by the people.

The Lancaster county Republican Committee met on Monday, and organized by electing John H. Stechman, Chairman, and Messrs. J. K. Snyder and W. S. Bruckart, Secretaries. The County Convention was fixed for the first Monday in September.

The Democracy of Lehigh county have put the following ticket in nomination: Senator, Edwin Albright; Assembly, Robert Steckel, James Kimmel; Associate Judge, David Laury; Treasurer, Peter Hendricks; Commissioner, Jesse Soliday; Poor Director, John Erdman; Jury Commissioner, Samuel Berger; Auditor, Frank Herring.

The following gentlemen are named in connection with Republican nominations in Bradford county: Representatives, Hon. E. Reed Myer, Major B. S. Dartt, Hon. J. H. Webb, C. F. Nichols, L. J. Andress, Dr. E. G. Tracy; Associate Judge, C. Cook, G. W. Ingham, C. W. Reynolds; Commissioner, E. B. Moore, A. Snell, Geo. W. Kilmer; Treasurer, M. Marshall.

The Philadelphia *Press* says: At least two things are beyond dispute in Pennsylvania—the Liberal party has been washed out, and the Democrats are very nearly "played out," to borrow a homely phrase. However we may differ about other matters, these two are pretty well settled.

Massachusetts.

CHANGE OF TIME IN HOLDING REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

BOSTON, August 19.—The Republican State Central Committee to-day decided to change the time of holding the Convention at Worcester to September 10th, as the hall was engaged from the 17th to the 24th.

Ohio.

OPENING OF THE CAMPAIGN AT XENIA.
Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

XENIA, Ohio, August 19, 1873.

Alphonzo Hart will speak on the political issues of the day at the Court House Friday night next. Politicians are doing a considerable amount of wire working now, preparatory to the coming campaign.

Texas.

THE REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION.

DALLAS, TEXAS, August 19.—The Texas Republican State Convention assembled here today at 12 M., Col. Malloy, of Jefferson, was chosen temporary Chairman. Governor Davis made a speech in which he asked them to act harmoniously. He did not care who they nominated so they were honest men. A Committee on Credentials was appointed, and the Convention adjourned till four o'clock, at which hour it reassembled, but owing to the large crowd in the hall and the hot weather they adjourned to Pitt's lager beer garden. Davis's nomination for Governor is certain.

General.

Last year the Democrats boasted that they could carry Ohio, because they had the Liberals with them. This year they boast that they will carry the State because they have got rid of the Liberals with them. None can be found among county deparatists. The weaker they are, the stronger they become.—*Toledo Blade.*

Now we know just what they are. The Cincinnati *Volksblatt* says that William Allen represents the Past, Judge Thurman the Intermediate Present, and Judge Collins the political Future." We also learn that the first is the "gone-under sun," the second the "mid-day sun," and the third the "morning twilight," that goes before the coming sun. "Morning twilight" is good, but as a matter of astronomical fact we would like to know how the "morning twilight" can precede the visible, and the mid-day sun in the sky?—*Cleveland Herald.*

The following is a list of coming political conventions, for which calls have already been issued: Wednesday, August 20, Texas Republican State Convention, in Dallas; Wednesday, August 27, National Temperance Convention, at Saratoga Springs; Pennsylvania Democratic State Convention, in Wilkesbarre; Wisconsin Republican State Convention, in Madison; Mississippi Republican State Convention, in Jackson; Friday, September 12, Maryland Republican State Convention, in Frederick.

"Mamma Is Dead."

The Virginia City (Nevada) *Enterprise*, in a recent issue, relates the following: "Mr. John W. Van Brocklin, of Twin Bridges, a short distance away from this city, has begun to build a church at Sheridan, and was away from home with his wagon and team from Monday morning until Friday night. He could be seen several weeks so occupied. He was therefore, absent from his wife and two little children, the eldest five years old, all week, except Saturday night. On Friday night Mrs. Van Brocklin and children enjoyed good health and the husband and father had no fear for the safety of the birds in the home-nest. There were many neighbors, too, and Saturday evening the two children used to toddle a good distance along the road by which their father came, to meet him and get a ride home in the wagon. On a late Saturday Mr. Van Brocklin was returning home as usual, and the two little fellows had gone quite a distance to meet him. He stopped to take them in the wagon, and as he lifted them up he asked, 'How is mamma?' Two little voices sang in chorus, 'Mamma is dead.' He thought he did not hear correctly and asked again, 'Your mamma?' The little voices again chimed together. 'Yes, papa, mamma is dead.' Then he knew. Van Brocklin hurried his team home. He found his wife indeed in bed insensible, and fast sinking in death. She was there alone; no neighbors were near. She called loudly for help—the neighbors were alarmed, a doctor was summoned, but before he arrived the poor woman had passed away. The doctor pronounced it was of a paralytic nature. This is the children's story, gathered from them by odds and ends: On Thursday evening, Mrs. Van Brocklin felt unusually ill and lonely, went to them she was sick, and to run and call the nearest neighbor. Then she fell down on the bed. She never said anything more to them, and that night, at first asleep, then awake, she was growing dark, and they were afraid to go for the neighbor. They slept in their clothes, and tried to waken their mother in the morning, but could not rouse her. They ate what they could find cooked in the house, and drove up the cows morning and evening to be milked but there was nobody to milk them, and at the usual time they turned them out into the pasture again. The neighbors seeing the children at their usual daily tasks, supposed, of course, that all was right with them. It was not long, and it so happened that none of them called. The oldest child began to be a little frightened, and suggested to the other, 'What if mamma should be dead?' whereupon she received a cuff for waken up.' And so the little boys came to the conclusion that their mother had gone away from them, and wondered what papa would say when he came home. The solicitude of this poor little mite was excited, and, with their hearts full of news, they started out to meet their father coming home in his wagon. They had been fortunately beguiled from the shadow of death in the house, and were not old enough to realize what it meant."

One Thing Proved.

It was strongly charged by the *Ledger*, some weeks ago, that there was a combination to trade off the Supreme Judgeship for the State Treasurership in the Republican Convention. The result clearly proves that no such bargain or combination existed. Mr. Mackey's influence in that Convention was very great, probably greater than that of either of the three judges, but the bold front he took on the issue divided. And if any such bargain had existed as this that was so freely charged, not only by the *Ledger*, but by other papers in the State, Mr. Mackey would have been easier than for Mr. Mackey to have thrown influence enough on the side of Judge Paxson to elect him. But Mr. Mackey did nothing of the kind. He and his friends, entertaining an honest preference for Judge Gordon, stood staunchly by him, and won the day.

It is due to Judge Paxson to call attention to this unanswerable logic of events, in reply to the alleged corrupt bargain in which he was supposed to bear a part. We sincerely regret that his friends, when they found they were not strong enough to nominate him, did not, even at the eleventh hour, bring forward either one of those two names from the Philadelphia judiciary that would have given them power of strength for the whole State, for it would have been a high honor to Philadelphia to have placed Judge Hare or Judge Thayer on the Supreme Bench, as we believe could have been done. But however that may be, the result of the balloting shows that so far from there being any corrupt bargain between the friends of Mr. Mackey and those of Judge Paxson, there was no alliance between them at all. —*Philadelphia Bulletin.*

THE TICKET AND PLATFORM.

What the Papers Have to Say About Them.

[From the Reading Times and Dispatch.]

The action of the Republican State Convention, though not altogether what the Republicans of Berks county desired, will upon the whole, be satisfactory to the party generally. For weeks before the Convention met the nomination of R. W. Mackey for State Treasurer, was a foregone conclusion, and when the Republicans of Lancaster county, by a direct vote, instructed their delegates so overwhelmingly in his favor, it was felt, even by those who opposed him, that he had the confidence of the people, as well as the leading Republican politicians of the State. His nomination on the first ballot by so large a majority did not excite surprise—indeed it was predicted in these columns several days ago that such would be the case. That he will prove a very strong candidate before the people of the whole State is beyond all question. Though he has held the office for four terms,—the main objection—it is due to him to say that he has fulfilled its duties honestly and faithfully—accounting to the last dollar, for the many millions that have passed through his hands. He has always been an earnest advocate of the payment of the State debt in the shortest period of time consistent with low taxation and unoppressive popular burdens. He has a good record, that will bear the closest scrutiny. That he will be elected, no matter who the Democrats nominate against him, is beyond all doubt.

The nomination for Judge of the Supreme Court, on the other hand, is a complete surprise. It was regarded as certain, before the Convention met, that the choice would be between Judge Butler, of Chester county, and Judge Paxson, of Philadelphia. No one east of the Alleghenies dreamed that a western man would carry off the prize. But it has so happened that the differences of the western and the friends of Butler and Paxson has resulted in the defeat of both. Perhaps it is all the better, for the success of the ticket—that the choice fell as it did. We of Berks, though defeated in our hopes of Butler's nomination, have at least the satisfaction of knowing that, through our delegates, we helped to defeat the Philadelphia "Ring." So far as we have heard, the "bolt" of the Berks county delegates from Butler to Gordon, on the last ballot, by which the nomination of the latter was secured, is heartily endorsed by their constituents.

The nomination of Judge Gordon, without being especially distasteful to any section, is hailed with enthusiasm in the western part of the State. The Republicans of the North and West, who pile up the big majorities at every annual election, will roll them up as powerfully that line for the Republican State ticket than they ever did before. Even if our Philadelphia friends are disposed to be "huffy," we can carry the State without their aid. It is not to be supposed, however, that they will take this suicidal course, because they could not have got a candidate on the State ticket who would roll up the usual heavy majority, and so help to elect the ticke by an overwhelming vote.

[From the Harrisburg Telegraph.]

We deem it unnecessary to reiterate to-day what we have so often discussed in these columns, the qualifications of Mr. Mackey for the high position he has so acceptably filled for several years past. The record of his administration is well known to the people. The reduction of two millions of dollars annually of the State debt, and the entire repeal of all laws imposing taxes of real estate, cannot be obliterated from the minds of the people by the personal abuse of those who desire to plunder the State Treasury. Mr. Mackey's campaign has brought on him all the fire of the election of Governor Hartranft. The people then indorsed, as they will assuredly again indorse, on the 14th of October next, his financial management of the State by giving him an overwhelming majority.

Judge Isaac G. Gordon, of Jefferson county, is the coming man. Not so much so that Governor is well known throughout the western part of the State as an able jurist. His connection with many of the disputed land titles in that section of the State, and the numerous disputes arising in the counties where millions upon millions are interested in the oil business, fit him especially for a seat upon the Supreme Bench. He is a Democrat, but has always been unquestioned. His name will prove a tower of strength to the party, and will rally the whole west and northwest in his support at the polls.

Hon. Robert W. Mackey, our candidate for State Treasurer, has filled that high office for two terms with signal success, both to the taxpayers of the State. Under his careful management of the finances of the State our State debt has been reduced to an unprecedented extent, thus saving in a corresponding degree the annual interest on the same. His financial abilities are unquestioned, and although the subject of the bitterest animadversions of the Democratic party and press, during the campaign last year and since, his nomination by a vote of 115 out of 133 delegates is a noble tribute to his financial ability, and a triumphant vindication of his official acts. He will run ahead of his ticket, and will be elected by a large majority. He is the most competent man that could be selected for the position. The delegates from Allegheny county have done well in the selection of their candidate, and the people will rally to his support as heartily as to that of R. W. Mackey, who seems to be the most popular Treasurer that the State ever had.

Hammering Down the Pegs.

The Prince de Joinville, in a recent speech before the Langres Agricultural Society, dwelt upon the political situation of France, and defended his course in supporting Marshal MacMahon by a characteristic anecdote of President Lincoln. One day, during the very gloomiest period of the rebellion, the Prince ventured to ask Mr. Lincoln the question, "What his policy really was." "Policy," replied the President, "I have no policy; I base my life in preventing the storm from carrying away the tent, and for that purpose I hammer down the pegs as fast as they are torn up." In applying this story the Prince de Joinville said that "the French National Assembly, like President Lincoln, was incessantly hammering down pegs. A short time ago Mr. Adolph Thiers, whose great services are present in all our recollections, was our best peg, but to-day an imperious necessity has compelled the Assembly to rally around MacMahon, the chivalrous soldier, who shed his blood, so freely at Sedan and whose courage and loyalty are above suspicion."

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, PA., August 19, 1873.

There is considerable commotion in official circles respecting the speech of Jeff Davis to his friends at a White Sulphur Springs, Virginia. The question is asked, whether such irreasonable sentiments must go unpunished. This was probably considered beforehand. The impression entertained by many, that Jeff is still liable to trial, having been released to answer when called, is unfortunately erroneous. In judicial circles it is stated that a *nolle prosequi* was entered and the prisoner discharged. Jeff and the other women whom he compliments as still unreconstructed, can therefore indulge their hostility, but if, as he says, their sons and daughters will live to grow up to maintain the honor, and perpetuate and finally redeem the principles which aimed at the destruction of the Constitution, there will be more of the same generation and gender to conquer and crush them.

Operations of McLellan.

It is stated that the abstraction of moneys from the mails by McLellan, the railway postal clerk, will reach upwards of thirty thousand dollars. His alleged thefts have covered a period of several years. It is charged that he has chiefly confined his purloining to letters addressed to periodicals and papers, abstracting the remittances of subscribers. McLellan is a son of an ex-Assistant Postmaster General. As yet, no steps have been taken to punish the offender, though he has been dismissed.

Indian Claim Agents.

The firm of Douglass H. Cooper & Co., Indian Claim Agents, a short time since debarred from practice in the Indian office, have made application to be restored to their former privileges. The Indian office is not likely to accede to their request, as the Commissioner is about to bring suit against them for the amount of their alleged fraudulent transactions in the Choctaw claims.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 20, 1873.

The revival of the original design of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal by the proposed completion of the middle and western sections so as to connect the present terminus at Cumberland, Md., with the headwaters of the Youghlogheny, and by the valleys of that stream and the Monongahela, the Ohio at Pittsburgh, has aroused great interest on the part of the friends of that important inland water route in this city. They, however, have a project of their own, which is the extension of the canal to Annapolis, Md., crossing the southern portions of Washington to the Anacostia, or eastern branch of the Potomac, thence by that stream to a sufficient elevation, and thence across the country to the Severn river, which empties into the Chesapeake Bay at Annapolis, a distance of forty miles. This would save several hundred miles of navigation by schooner down the Potomac and up the Chesapeake to Baltimore, or by sea to Philadelphia and New York. With the completion of the Ohio and Amazon extensions, a through canal route will have been effected, connecting the Ohio, Chesapeake, Delaware and Hudson. There is now canal communication from the Chesapeake to the Hudson; the Annapolis project is therefore of great importance in perfecting the connection of the Ohio and the Chesapeake, and freights thus sent through from Pittsburgh to Baltimore without breaking bond.

Missouri Bonds.

The Secretary of the Interior, upon further investigation discovers that there is no law by which the United States can sue a State, and hence will be compelled to accept currency for the Missouri bonds repudiated in gold, according to the contract, held by him in trust for certain Indian tribes. These bonds mature next month, and the Secretary has the power to withhold the amount of gold premium in the settlement of the Missouri war claims under the authority of an act of Congress.

THE WAWASSET INVESTIGATION.

Captain Gedlie, Superintendent of the Potomac Ferry Company, testified before the Wawasset Commission to-day, that the license for that vessel called for one hundred and thirty cabin and twenty steerage passengers. This was received from the Georgetown Custom House. The last inspection allowed only thirty cabin and twenty deck passengers. He afterward obtained permission to carry five hundred additional passengers on a limited number of occasions on the Potomac river. Witness had no idea how the mistake as to the limitation of the number of passengers occurred on last inspections, only these being allowed. Capt. Wood said the Superintendent gave him instructions to exercise the crew in fire drills, but he had not done so to-day, being under the influence of liquor. Witness had been given Captain Smith, General Supervising Inspector, said that from the evidence of the Superintendent of the Potomac Ferry Company, and that of the Captain of the Wawasset, it was evident that there was an absence of discipline, order and proper authority on the Wawasset. What the witness he would not say, but everything possible should be done to obtain the truth, in order to form a right judgment, and to act accordingly. He remembered the report of the Board of Inspegrt and sorrow, not only because of the occasion, but because it shortened his trip to the Western waters. He was the most humane officer the Commission closed, to give such aid in the investigation as might be required, and express his sympathy to those who lost their friends and relatives by the disaster. The Commission adjourned till Friday.

THE PAWNEE-SIOUX FIGHT.

The following account of the recent fight between the Pawnee and Sioux Indians has been received at the War Department, through General Sheridan, from the Superintendent of Indian Affairs at Omaha, and dated at the Pawnee Agency, Nebraska, August 9th: On the morning John Williamson, Sub-Agent in charge of the Pawnee hunters, returned and said that, after a successful hunt, in which they had killed a thousand buffalo, and being heavily laden with meat and hides, on their return home they were surprised in camp by the Sioux, supposed to be one thousand strong, and before they could escape or make a successful resistance, nearly one hundred men, women and children were slain and scalped. The wounded, dead and dying women and helpless children were thrown into a heap and burned in the most barbarous and inhuman manner possible; very few of the women and children of the tribe were with them, but nearly all were there became victims of the ruthless and unprovoked slaughter. Buffalo had just been successfully decoyed within their view, and many of them were out after them. Sky Chief was killed. Williamson made his escape on horseback, and came to the agency to report all his goods. Young Platt, companion to Williamson, also lost his horse. They met a few soldiers from Fort McPherson and gave them information of the massacre. The Pawnees, sorrowful and disheartened, are returning home as fast as possible. Williamson brought six badly wounded Indians on the train to Silver Creek, Nebraska, and Dr. Davis with teams has left to bring them home. Much excitement prevails and a spirit of war is running at fever heat. Williamson's runners report only two Sioux killed.

Education for the Masses—Early Efforts Under the Government—Views of the Founders of the Republic—Influence of Slavery—Pennsylvania Leads in the Cause of Education for the Rich and Poor Alike—A Scrap of History Open to Consideration—Revival of Educational Interest—A Donation Worthy of Our Greatness—Establishment of a Department of Education—Some Facts from its Last Report.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 18, 1873.

The fathers of the Republic recognized education as among the leading elements of prosperity and success. On public occasions and in private correspondence the importance of encouraging education among the people was eloquently and earnestly pressed.

EDUCATION UNDER THE CONFEDERATION.

This interest was fully displayed before the adoption of the Federal Constitution. While the political relations between the States and the general government were yet ill-defined and in a condition of uncertainty, the former agreed to surrender their titles to the wild and uninhabited wilds on their Western borders. An ordinance of the Confederation in 1787, providing for the control of this newly acquired territory, required that section sixteen of every township should be reserved for public schools. An ordinance of 1787, for the government of the territory of the United States northwest of the Ohio river, declared that religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall be forever encouraged.

These two provisions seem singular, with examples of such a marked character, that no special reference to the subject of education was made in the Federal Constitution. It is left to explanation that the general welfare clause covered the question. The propositions of Pinkney and Madison to incorporate a provision for the establishment of a National University at the seat of government were opposed and defeated on the ground that to found such an institution would be to embraced in the right of exclusive jurisdiction to be exercised by Congress over the Federal districts.

VIEWS OF THE FOUNDERS.

In the first recommendations of Washington as President to Congress he said, "Nor am I less persuaded that you will agree with me in opinion that there is nothing which can better claim your patronage than the promotion of science and literature. Knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness. In one in which the measures of government receive their impressions so immediately from the sense of the community as in ours it is proportionably essential.

Whether this desirable object will be best promoted by affording aids to seminaries of learning already established, by the institution of a National University or by some other expedients, will be well worthy of a place in the deliberations of the Legislature." During his terms of office as President he repeatedly referred to this subject, urging it in official communications to Congress and in private letters to Hamilton and others.

In his farewell address to the people of the United States he said: "Promote as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened."

He was particularly in favor of the establishment of a National University at the seat of government, and in the laying out of the National Capital, under his direction as President of the United States, a special reservation, beautifully chosen, for the erection of one of the most prominent eminences in the capital, was set apart and designated on the plan as "University Square." This square now constitutes the grounds of that world-widely famous seat of science, the Naval Observatory. He also left with Washington donated fifty shares of the Potomac Improvement Company stock in aid of the suggested National Observatory.

We also find Jefferson the man of culture and taste in the earlier days of the republic, urging education with equal vigor of sentiment and words. He says if a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be. In recommending the advantages of town or district schools numerous enough to be within reach of every family, he says: "My partiality for that division is not founded in views of education solely, but infinitely more as the means of a better administration of our government and the eternal peace and preservation of its republican privileges. * * * I do most anxiously wish to see the highest degrees of education given to the higher degrees of genius, and to all degrees of it so much as may enable them to read and understand what is going on in the world, and to keep their part of it going on right, for nothing can keep it right but their own vigilant and distrustful superintendence." So we might produce extracts without number to show the interest of the directing minds of the republic during her infant days in the promotion of education. That their posterity has heeded the advice is evident in almost every village and city, township, county and State in this broad land.

INFLUENCE OF SLAVERY.

In the first days of the Republic the Southern States and statesmen led by Washington and Jefferson, were zealous in their endeavors to promote education. A strong influence was brought to bear but no responsive action was taken by the local government, and soon the subject was either forgotten or given up as hopeless. This feeling increased with the arrogance of the slave influence. The antagonism of free and slavery sealed all prospect of action by Congress. The general welfare of the country was forgotten subservient to the interests of African slavery it was left to the States or communities in their local capacities to carry out the teachings of the fathers. The free school, supported by a tax levied on the principle that the property of the State should educate the children of the State,

matter of fact platform, which was adopted and Hon. Wm. Kennedy, Messrs. Peter O'Hara, James L. Kiser, H. G. Dohrmann, Harry Darby and Wm. Eichbaum.

On motion of Mr. M. F. Dickson, the committee was authorized to meet at its own convenience, and announce the platform through the daily press.

The Convention passed a vote of thanks to the reporters, and then adjourned.

TARENTUM CAMP MEETING.

Tarentum Camp-ground—When Purchased, and Why the Location was Selected—Costly Improvements—Cozy Cottages—Projected Improvements—Religious Services—Modes of Conducting—Personal, &c.

Comparatively few are aware that the beautiful grove, purchased from the Hon. H. M. Brackenridge, about eighteen years ago, a mile and a half from Tarentum, is now a kind of elysium. It is regarded as the city camp-meeting, although named "Tarentum," for the sake of the locality. Each of the churches (Methodist Episcopal) in Pittsburgh, and some of the churches on the North Side, are represented by two trustees in the Board, which holds in trust the grove for the church. The policies and rights are subject to the act of Incorporation, granted some years ago.

THE SELECTION OF A SITE.

Over twenty years ago this ground was selected by the city churches for several considerations. It was sufficiently distant to avoid the rowdy element of the city. It was accessible all the year and usual, and it was expected in time would be reached by rail. Sure enough, the Allegheny Valley Railroad was soon constructed, and now the Western Pennsylvania. Perhaps the chief considerations were that grove seemed formed for camp-meeting purposes. It is a kind of flattened knoll, with a slight incline from the head to the rear, surrounded by a ravine, the dart, except at the entrance. It contains a number of springs, which never fail to supply an abundance of water every season. This is an important consideration. Two or three annual meetings were held by consent of Mr. Brackenridge, and a request from him was then made to him, to buy the grounds. He generously consented at the reasonable price, stipulating that it was to be and "forever" for camp meeting and religious purposes, and not so used, he had the right to re-purchase. The grove was originally comprised about fifteen acres, but a subsequent purchase has added seventeen acres.

THE IMPROVEMENTS.

Several years ago, the trustees commenced improving the property by erecting a fine two story preacher's house and for the use of the trustees, a nice two story frame for the use of the person who takes care of the ground, a spacious pulpit stand, with good seating for the people, stationary lamps and canvas awning stretching from the pulpit midway over the congregation, protecting from sun and rain or dew. Valuable out-buildings have also been erected, road leading to ground kept in order, and very recently pipes have been laid to conduct water from the upper springs to the lower part of the ground, to supply the families living there, at an expense of some hundreds of dollars. The trustees project other improvements next year, and it is intended to make it a beautiful spot in the vicinity. The grove in the inner circle, where public services are held, is well shaded.

Within a few years the canvas tents for temporary use during the annual meetings have gradually disappeared, and cottages, one and two story, are substituted. Very few canvas tents are on the ground at this time. Every year the cottages erected are more of the modern style, ranging from three to four hundred dollars. At the present meeting there are ninety-four one and two story cottages. Seventeen cottages were erected this season, and quite a number of lots have been sold and cottages will be erected during the present season. The several annual meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, and officers elected for the ensuing year. Some idea of the incidental expenses and improvement may be gathered from the fact, that nearly fifteen hundred dollars have been paid for the past closed. There is now private and public property to the value of thirty or forty thousand dollars. It is really a summer town.

The officers proved so efficient they were all unanimously re-elected, viz: Bishop Simpson, President; Jacob H. Walter; Vice Presidents, Geo. Anderson; Secretary, W. Freeman; Treasurer, John G. Matthews.

Quite a number of families, by permission of the trustees, spent several weeks previous to the opening of the camp meeting, in "summering," as they do at some Eastern camp grounds. Religious services were held Sunday, August 10th, Rev. R. Hamilton, Rev. F. W. Vernon, James M. Kerr, P. E. Core officiating. A children's meeting was held and addresses delivered by Messrs. J. H. Walter, J. H. Hillerman and Rev. J. F. Cowan.

THE CAMP MEETING.

The camp meeting proper opened, Wednesday, 13th, by a sermon from Rev. Dr. W. A. Davidson, then by falling Thursday morning, there was no public service. In the afternoon Rev. A. W. Rutter preached, and in the evening Rev. Dr. C. Elliott. Friday opened with a general class meeting. Morning sermon by Rev. N. G. Miller; afternoon, Rev. M. B. Pugh; night, Rev. W. H. Miller. Saturday, 9 A. M., experience meeting. Morning service, Rev. W. Hutchinson; afternoon, Rev. A. H. Nor-cross; night, Rev. W. Darby. Sunday, 8½ A. M., Rev. M. J. Montgomery preached; 10½, Rev. W. W. Hutt; 2 P. M., Rev. Dr. W. Hunter; editor of the Pittsburgh *Christian Advocate*; same hour, outside of circle, Rev. J. G. High preached; Rev. Dr. W. A. Davidson, Monday morning sermon; Rev. T. McCleary; afternoon sermon, Rev. J. F. Core, followed, after a brief intermission, by an address on "Peace," by Miss Jane E. Weeden, Quakeress, and representative of the American Peace Society, at Bright, Rev. Dr. R. S. Miller preached. The public services we frequently interrupted by rain and for three times were adjourned still, though it is are so cozy and comfortable that the people suffered little compared with former years and in the same circumstances. The services will continue until Friday morning.

MANAGEMENT OF THE GROUNDS.

Methodist custom usually placed the conduct of camp meetings wholly under the charge of the presiding Elder of the district where the meeting was held. This plan usually worked well, though it is rarely observed, where grounds are purchased; in fact, these chief ministers prefer to be relieved of the responsibility. At some of the principal camp meetings, especially those held to promote "heart piety," commonly called "holiness meetings," the temporal affairs are managed by a board, while the religious services are conducted wholly separate—the distinction of the spiritual and temporal interests. In regard to Tarentum camp meeting, inasmuch as the six churches are embraced in five districts, it was arranged that the Board each year shall elect a committee to supervise the religious services, consisting of three ministers and two laymen. This year the committee consists of Rev. J. J. Montgomery, pastor of Pennsylvania avenue church; Rev. D. F. Miller, P. Elder of the Pittsburgh district, and (camp meeting in the bounds), and Rev. F. W. Vertican, living near the ground. These ministers have been unfortunate in their labors, while the lay members, Messrs. J. H. Walter and W. Freeman, have performed their part well. Thos. Gentleman, President and Secretary, leave nothing undone to make the meeting a success, and render the people comfortable. Messrs. J. H. Hillerman, Geo. Anderson, W. T. Taylor, J. G. Matthews, assisting. According to accommodations, the camp arrangements are better than formerly. The table comforts especially are far in advance of former years, and people pay willingly for the prices. This is especially the case at the Liberty street church boarding tent, and that of the Smithfield church, owned by a joint stock company we believe. The Liberty street establishment is kept by H. M. Westervelt—the table and seeping apartments being all that could be desired. We speak thus, because "we know," and do so the more cheerfully, as the accommodation is given after all charges were settled.

THE MT. PLEASANT AND BROADFORD RAILROAD.

Further Litigation—Cross-Bill and Answer—The Mt. Pleasant and Broadford vs. The Connellsville Company.

The suit arising out of the action of the Mt. Pleasant and Broadford Railroad Company, in determining the lease to the Connellsville Railroad Company, and taking possession of the road, bids fair to be a lengthy one. After the injunction above stated, the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Company filed a bill in equity against the Mt. Pleasant and Broadford Company, and on the 17th of May last the Supreme Court granted a preliminary injunction "forbidding it, its agents and employees to exercise any of its corporate privileges, or use its own railroad, until the further order of the Court."

The next step taken was a rule on the defendants (the Mt. Pleasant and Broadford Company) to plead, answer or demur in thirty days. The defendants made no response to this rule, yesterday, through their counsel, Messrs. Burgwin and Marshall, died an answer and cross-bill, and took a rule on the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Company to plead, answer or demur in thirty days.

The cross-bill is quite a lengthy document, the material facts and allegations being—

1st. That the bill of complaint of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company, upon which the preliminary injunction was granted, suggested that they (the complainants) were in the actual and lawful possession and management of the Mt. Pleasant and Broadford Railroad, under a lease from the company; and that the answer to said bill was filed on the 18th of August, 1873.

2d. The Mt. Pleasant and Broadford Company, admitting that they did execute a lease of their road, to the Connellsville company, further represent that their road was built mainly through subscriptions of the owners of coal property in that section, and was designed to furnish an outlet for coal and coke; that aside from the punctual payment of the rent, the main inducement for making the lease, as was well understood by the lessee company, was that the road should be put and kept in proper repair, and the adequate motive power and rolling stock should be furnished for the use of the road, and be renewed and increased from time to time, as the increase in trade might render it necessary.

3d. Sometime in March, 1873, the lessee took possession of the road, the entire track being then laid but not ballasted, began to operate it, and took in charge its further completion and equipment. About June 1st, 1873, the road was fully completed and in operation by the lessee from Broad Ford to Mt. Pleasant.

4th. From that time until the 25th of March, 1873, when the Mt. Pleasant and Broad Ford Company repossessed themselves of the leased property, wholly failed to comply with any one of the three covenants upon their part, which were the main inducement and consideration for the making of said lease; that is to say.

5th. The said lessee company did not furnish the said road with an adequate amount of motive power and rolling stock, and did not renew and increase the same from time to time, as increase in trade rendered necessary. In the months of July and August, both of motive power and rolling stock, was notoriously, continuously and shamefully deficient, in spite of the frequent and importunate remonstrances of the officers of the lessor company and of the manufacturers doing business on the road.

6th. The lessee company did not keep the said road in good repair, order and condition, according to their contract in said lease. On the contrary, the said road was grossly neglected by them, and permitted to get and remain in such bad repair, and in a ruinous and dangerous condition: and was in such condition when we resumed possession as aforesaid. From ore end of it to the other it was scarcely a hundred yards in good order. In consequence whereof the road was unable to do the business it would otherwise have done, and thereby the receipts of the road were greatly diminished, to the loss and injury of the lessor company.

7th. The lessee company did not account for and pay to the lessor company, semi-annually, during said term, up to the time possession of the road was resumed as aforesaid, the rent or tonnage on gross earnings and capital stock, according to the covenant and guarantee in that regard, as contained in said lease.

8th. Refers to a copy of the account, and points out wherein it is insufficient, incorrect and unfair.

9th. That not only has the lessee never furnished a full and correct exhibit of the accounts between the two companies, including the gross earnings of the road, notwithstanding frequent urgent demands for a settlement, but that their books and accounts have been kept with such carelessness and gross negligence that it is out of their power to render such an account.

10th. Under these circumstances, the Board of Directors, by unanimous vote, declared the lease and term forfeited and determined, and the President of the company was directed to take possession of the road, according to the provisions to that effect as contained in the lease.

11th. In pursuance of such action of the Board, the President did, on the 25th of March, take peaceable possession of the entire railroad from Mt. Pleasant to Broad Ford, without objection or remonstrance from the lessee company or any of their officers or employees, using only sufficient force to take up the connections with the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad.

12th. With the exception of a futile attempt by the employees of the lessee company, after the said bill was filed, viz., on the 30th day of April, 1873, to replace the connections between the two roads, which had been taken up as aforesaid, the company continued in the quiet, peaceable and exclusive possession of the entire road until the time the writ of injunction from this Court was served upon the officers of the company.

13th. That the original bill filed in this case, and the relief prayed for, are founded on the false suggestion that the complainants in that bill were in actual possession of the Mt. Pleasant and Broad Ford Railroad under the lease, and that the lessor company was attempting at the time of filing said bill to wrest from them the possession thereof by fraud and violence, and was interfering by threats and menaces with the use and management of said road by complainants, which is the direct contrary of this was the true state of the case. The Connellsville company was endeavoring to recover possession from the defendants. Therefore the effect of the injunction granted was not to restrain any act of interference on the part of defendants, but dispossess them of the road.

14th. In obedience to the order, possession of the entire road was surrendered to the lessor company.

The complainants in this cross-bill therefore pray for the dissolution of the original bill; the reinstatement of the complainants in the possession of the road; the cancellation of the lease, and the enjoining of the Connellsville Company from setting up or attempting to force any rights thereunder.

The counsel on the other side have thirty days in which to plead, answer or demur.

IRON ORE.

Large Increase in Receipts from Lake Superior and Missouri.

The receipts of iron ore at this port, for the year 1873, will be very largely in excess of those of 1872, consequent upon the increased number of furnaces. In 1873 the receipts of ore aggregated 149,060 tons. For the first seven months of 1873 the receipts footed up 101,475 tons, as will appear by the following table:

	1872.	Jan. 1 to Aug. 1, 1873.
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From Missouri	81,639	102,920
From Lake Superior		
Total	149,060	181,475

Thus it will be seen that we have already received, in 1873, 29,415 tons more ore than was taken during the whole of 1872.

In this connection we append the following from the St. Louis *Republic*:

It is reported on pretty good authority, that the Pittsburgh and Wheeling iron manufacturers, recognizing the impossibility of competing with Missouri in the production of her ores, are quietly buying up all the mineral lands offered for sale as the only method of protection left to them. A Wheeling company lately bought one of the richest mines yet opened in this State, and is now shipping direct to that point, for manufacture there, from ten to twenty car loads of ore daily.

The exorbitant prices demanded for ore by the Missouri producers, would no doubt render it desirable for Pennsylvania manufacturers to purchase and work mines on their own account. If they have the capital to do so, the object is a bright one. The important fact still remains, that the ore must be brought to the fuel, and that while our coal fields hold out we need have no anxiety as to "competition" either in Missouri or elsewhere.

OBITUARY.

Death of James McGunnegle, County Commissioner.

The community will be pained to learn of the sudden decease of Mr. James McGunnegle, a member of the Board of Commissioners for Allegheny county. The deceased had been in good health until Wednesday of last week, when he was taken ill with inflammation of the bowels. The symptoms were somewhat alarming, for a few days, but the disease gradually yielded to the medical treatment, and on Tuesday morning he was reported as in a favorable condition. Towards evening, however, congestion of the brain set in, which terminated in death a half-past ten o'clock the same night.

Mr. McGunnegle was generally known throughout the county, and his sociability and generosity gained him many warm personal friends. He was at one time employed as clerk in the Monongahela river packets, and his courtesy and affability made him a great favorite with travelers. He next turned his attention to market gardening, on his homestead at the mouth of Chartiers creek, and continued this business successfully until a few years ago. In 1871 he became a candidate for County Commissioner, and after a very warm contest was defeated for the nomination by Mr. Joseph Dilworth, who led him ten votes in the Convention. A few weeks later it became necessary to recall the Convention, in order to nominate a candidate to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. McGee, and Mr. McGunnegle was unanimously chosen. He was subsequently elected and served one year, and in the fall of 1872 was re-elected for the full term of three years. He was in his fifty-first year, and leaves a wife and family to mourn his loss. His funeral will take place Friday afternoon, at two o'clock.

THE CALIFORNIANS OF 1849.

The Pittsburgh and California Enterprise Company—List of the Members—Interesting Record—A Quarter Century Reunion to be Held.

The gold fever which spread all over the United States, upon the discovery of the precious dust in California, afflicted a great many of the quiet citizens of Pittsburgh, and in addition to those who went out in small squads were some four hundred, who organized a company under the name of the "Pittsburgh and California Enterprise Company," and left here on the steamer "Consignee," in the spring of 1849. The company had a constitution and by-laws, adopted "for the more effectually securing mutual protection and assistance during our journey to and stay in California." The officers consisted of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Captain, and First and Second Lieutenants. It was, in fact, a civil and military organization combined. The whole company was divided into messes of five, each mess having a chief. Any member failing sick was to be taken care of, and provided for by the company. There was no common stock, each person commanding his own capital. All disputes or grievances between parties were to be settled by arbitration, each party choosing one, and these two a third—and at the request of these three arbitrators the President might appoint two others to act with them, and their decision was to be final. All labor on the Sabbath was prohibited, unless in cases of necessity and great emergency. These were the main provisions of the constitution. The by-laws provided that any member refusing to obey orders when duty, or when necessary to be called on duty for general defense, or who should be guilty of disgraceful language when on duty, was liable to a reprimand, or fine not exceeding five dollars, at the discretion of the company. For gambling, all fines for this purpose remitted from the President; and if the offense was greater than forty it was liable to fine or expulsion.

The following were the officers of the company: President, M. M. Kane, Jr.; Vice President, Charles T. Officer; Captain, Wm. A. Stone; First Lieutenant, Wm. Rankin; Second Lieutenant, James M. Braden. The first President was a resident of Allegheny, and his business near the old postoffice, on Third street.

It is not our purpose to detail the incidents connected with the expedition, further than to say that the staunch steamer "Consignee" was duly equipped, and on board, in addition to its living freight, some eighty and ninety wagons, the requisite amount of harness, and a full stock of provisions, executing the meat. The wagons and harness were made here, the mules were purchased here, and the whole experienced about seven hundred head. On the 15th of March the men were "all aboard," and the departure of the boat was witnessed by at least ten thousand persons. This event was only equalled in interest and importance by the departure of the volunteers for the war in Mexico, in 1847. Nothing of special moment occurred on the trip, except that the "Consignee" was driven by the contrary wind, as she was leaving Wheeling, sinking her, and causing the death of several passengers.

On arriving at St. Joseph, the company began to encounter serious difficulties, and the "hardships" of an overland journey made themselves manifest from the start. Nearly all the mules were young and inexperienced, in the "swearing" of mules, becoming animals to saddle and harness furnished much amusement and a good deal of hard work. The most serious difficulty that the company encountered, was the fact that they could not travel in one party. Their caravan was too big, and in order to get grass enough for their stock, on the plains, it became necessary for them to separate. The company divided into companies of ten, each company having a wagon, a tent or two—one for cooking, the other for sleeping, in—some six hundred miles west. This was a virtual disorganization, as the "pioneers" had not provided for what in the future they knew that they would have to abandon their wagons, and pack their provisions on horses. The wagons strewed along the plains, or converted into fires—wood; hundreds of the mules gave out, and perished to be devoured by the Indians; large quantities of provisions and ammunition were left behind, and the company, divided into parties of ten men, discouraged and disheartened, returned home. Those who "fought it out on that line," however, all got through—not a single having been lost.

This was the largest company ever organized for crossing the plains, and as the men were all residents of Pittsburgh, Allegheny and the surrounding counties, we append a list of them, kindly furnished by Mr. James Connor.

THE CALIFORNIA PIONEERS OF 1849.

Mess 1—Charles Coleman, James Kane, James M. Braden, Thomas Dunn, William Rankin, F. Kane.

Mess 2—Samuel Wilson, Wm. A. Stone, Wm. J. Chamberlin, William J. Aikrim, Charles T. Officer, A. M. Litman.

Mess 3—A. D. Patterson, C. G. Smith, G. W. Eggleston, W. Hughes, J. Groves, C. B. F. Clark.

Mess 4—Wm. Sheets, Jacob Silcox, W. H. Taylor, S. S. Willock, J. McCandless.

Mess 5—A. L. Sample, L. Cupps, James Witty, Dr. Crandall, Isaac Moore.

Mess 6—William Cooper, B. C. Quigly, J. Dorrington, W. Blaine, C. C. High, Fry.

Mess 7—L. G. Berger, James Connor, Thomas B. Dunn, J. S. Fallansbee, J. Nesmith.

Mess 8—W. H. Miller, J. A. N. Sinclair, E. C. Ing, J. McGraw.

Mess 9—William C. Beck, P. Ward, R. P. Glass, James McCarter, John Davison.

Mess 10—A. McMurray, A. McClory, J. Lecky, James McIrvine, Thomas Irwin, Dr. W. Hunter, editor of the Pittsburgh *Christian Advocate*; same hour, outside of circle, Rev. J. G. High preached; Rev. Dr. W. A. Davidson, Monday morning sermon; Rev. T. McCleary; afternoon sermon, Rev. J. F. Core, followed, after a brief intermission, by an address on "Peace," by Miss Jane E. Weeden, Quakeress, and representative of the American Peace Society, at Bright, Rev. Dr. R. S. Miller preached. The public services we frequently interrupted by rain and for three times were adjourned still, though it is are so cozy and comfortable that the people suffered little compared with former years and in the same circumstances. The services will continue until Friday morning.

Mess 11—M. Kane, Jr., James McKee, Thomas Barker, J. Huyett, J. McCloskey, W. Mehan.

Mess 12—S. J. Frisbee, R. Phillips, R. McKee, J. Atwell, J. McGowan.

Mess 13—Samuel Jaynes, W. F. Marthens, Samuel Ward, J. McDonald, G. O'Brien.

Mess 14—Thomas Reynolds, J. Cook, G. Minteboddie, J. Caldwell, J. Reynolds, Sr., Harris.

Mess 15—S. McIlvaine, A. Speer, T. Lent, T. Jones, H. S. Wynne.

Mess 16—J. Joyce, J. Anderson, F. Anderson, J. B. Fulton, Jacob Cupps.

Mess 17—J. M. Meredith, Wm. C. Meredith, A. Ingram, S. Wilson, A. C. Anderson, R. Wilson, J. Hughes, D. W. Wilson, R. K. Petrowski.

Mess 18—A. J. McNulty, H. Bonder, W. Shaffer, J. Ludwig, Geo. E. McCrady, J. Merabin.

Mess 19—J. Hunker, W. M. Murray, Chas. Rahbl, J. Jacobs, C. Fatterolf, J. O'Brien.

Mess 20—W. C. Reid, D. Hughey, J. Kearns, J. D. Scott, J. Jordan.

Mess 21—H. Wallace, Thomas Maxwell, L. L. Whiting, A. F. Blythe, J. Morrison.

Mess 22—W. J. Beatty, Beatty, Meckling, J. W. McCandless, W. J. Stewert, E. Yetter.

Mess 23—Philip M. Benson, J. Morre, E. Hoffast, W. B. Call.

Mess 24—J. Morgan, B. F. Latshaw, R. Spencer, Calvin Wood, J. Estep.

Mess 25—John Morgan, W. Wychoff, James Jones, M. Cowwright, G. W. Lewis.

Mess 26—D. Blair, C. C. Blair, Samuel Deal, J. L. F. Johnson, W. Auchenbraugh.

Mess 27—J. J. Deal, A. Deal, J. O. Nilson, Thos. Galbraith, M. Miller.

The names of this mess are missing.

Mess 29—J. Steiner, J. A. Markle, J. Shotts, E. Taylor, J. Eilcessor, J. A. Foster.

Mess 30—J. Marion, J. W. A. Bonder, T. Daft, J. Dixon, Thos. Daft.

Mess 31—S. H. Sarlor, Isaac N. White, Thomas Irwin, E. D. Harding, W. Bishop.

Mess 32—John Hosie, John Flood, J. Glenn.

Mess 33—W. Minis, W. McIlhenny, H. Wilson, J. Sythe.

Mess 34—T. W. Rodgers, J. Kerr, D. Estep, S. H. Squire, E. Marquis, F. Bell.

Mess 35—A. Steel, J. McClure, R. Crosby, W. M. O'Skelen, Thomas Grogg.

Mess 36—J. Fulton, J. G. Gallagher, W. D. Gray, J. S. Harbaugh, A. Bell, J. D. Robinson.

Mess 37—J. K. Johnson, W. Johnson, J. Smith, J. Latshaw, Jr., M. Hollabaugh.

Mess 38—J. Mathews, D. Darragh, F. P. Robinson, W. Estep, J. Darragh.

Mess 39—A. Bernard, J. Wall, J. Means, J. K. Vankirk, J. Warren.

Mess 40—Thomas Perkins, Jr., Thomas Thornburgh, John Thornburgh, M. Fisher, H. Gottzman, B. Phifer.

Messrs. J.—R. B. Butler, A. S. Goodwin, R. G. Robinson, F. A. McMullen, S. Snyder.

Messrs. J.—J. Dunnin, J. Mitchell, G. W. Taylor, R. Wilson, S. Stowe.

Mess 43—F. C. Negley, A. Young, J. Kiser, J. Lemmon, J. Harraceman, Ed. Kelly.

Mess 44—M. Goodfellow, C. Templeton, J. Goodwin, W. Symington, J. P. Brown.

Mess 45—H. Halderman, Geo. Horne, Guy Hains, P. Halderman, C. Peters.

Mess 46—Thomas McNair, R. McNair, D. McBride, J. Horeland, F. Phifer.

Mess 47—J. Pringle, J. Coppersmith, R. Staley, P. Sneker, P. Bergan.

Mess 48—M. Jack, R. Brown, L. Eckhoff, M. Hayden, J. P. Irwin.

Mess 49—J. B. Hartley, R. Wilson, C. Trusdale, M. Shepherd.

Mess 50—D. McGill, O. McConnell, J. F. Caughey, D. Hongh, Wm. F. Alderman.

Mess 51—A. Jack, J. A. Woods, J. Day, J. B. Henderson, H. J. Brunot.

Mess 52—Thomas Moore, John King, Ezekiel Robbins, David Ellis, William Gay, William Gross, George Stewart.

THE QUARTER CENTURY REUNION.

It is now nearly twenty-five years since this company of adventurers set out for the land of gold. Perhaps the most of them have finished their earthly pilgrimage, while many of those remain are scattered far and wide. It is supposed that about one-half of them still live in and around Pittsburgh. Some of them, shivered o'er with age, are known and esteemed among us. In order to ascertain, as far as possible, how many still survive, it is proposed to have a reunion on the twenty-fifth anniversary of their departure. We subject in view the following circular letter:

PITTSBURGH, August 15, 1873.

DEAR SIR—It will be twenty-five years on the 15th of March, 1874, since the "Pittsburgh and California Enterprise Company" left Pittsburgh, California, by steamer Consignee to St. Joseph, Mo., thence by the overland route to California with mule teams. The few returning and now remaining in Pittsburgh propose to have a reunion, or rather a quarter of a century reunion, and hope that as many as possible attend, if possible. The object of the meeting being to know how many of the members are living and where located; how many have died and when; and afterwards to have an annual meeting of the company until its last member dies. Enclosed find names and number of mess. Please examine and send me a short history of any member you have known (if knowledge of, whether dead or alive); name and postoffice of those living. Be kind enough to give this your immediate attention.

Yours, truly, JAMES CONNOR,
of Mess No. 7.

IRON ORE.

Large Increase in Receipts from Lake Superior and Missouri.

The receipts of iron ore at this port, for the year 1873, will be very largely in excess of those of 1872, consequent upon the increased number of furnaces. In 1873 the receipts of ore aggregated 149,060 tons. For the first seven months of 1873 the receipts footed up 101,475 tons, as will appear by the following table:

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Thus it will be seen that we have already received, in 1873, 29,415 tons more ore than was taken during the whole of 1872.

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The exorbitant prices demanded for ore by the Missouri producers, would no doubt render it desirable for Pennsylvania manufacturers to purchase and work mines on their own account. If they have the capital to do so, the object is a bright one. The important fact still remains, that the ore must be brought to the fuel, and that while our coal fields hold out we need have no anxiety as to "competition" either in Missouri or elsewhere.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, August 20, 1873.

The money circles of Pittsburgh are in perfect quiescence and no change of quotations can be predicated. Short paper is easily sold at from 7 to 9 per cent. per annum, but long loans are more cautiously handled by purchasers.

The exchange market is heavy, rates having changed to from 75c to $1 per thousand as against New York. Most of the banks are shipping currency.

—The managers of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, report that of the $9,000,000 of the 7-30 loan remaining unsold on the first of June last, less than $5,000,000 now remains, and that as soon as this balance is absorbed, the company will issue only 6 per cent. bonds. There are now between 500 and 600 miles of the road in regular operation, with a growing traffic: surveys and construction are progressing satisfactorily; the survey prosecuted the present season in connection with the Stanley military expedition, has resulted in the location of an excellent line through Western Dakota and Eastern Montana, and the company has advertised for proposals for grading and bridging the Yellowstone division, extending 206 miles from Bismarck, at the crossing of the Missouri river, to the crossing of the Yellowstone, in Montana. The company's lands (amounting to more than 20,000 acres per mile of road) are selling to settlers at an average price of nearly six dollars per acre, and the proceeds of land sales constitute a sinking fund for the repurchase and cancellation of first mortgage bonds.

—We have received from the publishers a neat pamphlet, entitled the History of Titusville, and an exhibit of the trade and commerce of that place for 1872. The book opens with a history of the oil trade since August, 1859, when the first well was struck by Col. Drake, and the production for the year was 87,000 barrels to the close of 1872, when the product was 6,539,000 barrels. A complete table of the trade of Titusville is given, showing the number of men employed, wages paid and capital invested in the various branches of industry which make up the commerce of the place. From this we learn that the total sales for 1872 foot up $6,931,000.

The spirit which leads the compilers of these statistics to prepare them for public use is commendable in the highest degree, and places the importance of the home trade of their city fairly before business men who are interested in keeping themselves informed.

We probably do not exaggerate when we say that there is no city of the importance in regard to manufacturing and mining industries of Pittsburgh that makes so little effort to collect reliable statistics of her trade, and we should be glad to chronicle the appearance of a spirit equally enterprising in this respect with our Titusville neighbors.

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of governm entand State bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Evening.
1881	119½
1867	117
1868	117
1865, new	116½
1867	119¾
1868	120¼
10-40s	113¾
New 6s	107
Gold	115¼
Currency 6s	113¾
Tennessees, new	82
South Carolinas, July	70
North Carolinas, old	27
Missouris	92½

—James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	115¼
United States 6s, 1881	119¾
United States 5-20s, 1862	117¾
United States 5-20s, 1864	117¾
United States 5-20s, 1865	118¾
United States 10-40s	113¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1865	119¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1867	119¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	120¼
Currency Pacifics	113¾

—The total debt of the State of Pennsylvania, according to a statement prepared by the Commissioner of the Sinking Fund of the Commonwealth, on the 1st of July, 1873, was $26,605,262, included in which is $561,000 of temporary loans, which subsequent ceased July 31, 1873, and is payable on demand. Of the aggregate debt $4,426,000 bears coin interest.

CIDER—There is little prime cider in the market, and sales are reported at $3 @ $3 50.

BOSTON—Guaranteed fresh eggs are selling at 14@15c per dozen. Doubtful not wanted.

BUTTER—Prices are 22@ 25c @ bbl; medium do No 1, $23; bay, No 1, $21; for half barrels, quarters and firkins 1c per lb more; for quarter-box, 1c; white fish $8; lake white fish, half bbls, $7 50; do, quarter bbls, $4 00; lake herring, half bbls, $6 75.

FEATHERS—Prime live prices are quiet at 48@50c; mixed and old 40@60c.

FLOUR—Receipts by rail and river for the past twenty-four hours amount to 2,470 barrels. There is a good demand for all choice brands of old wheat flours. Prices, however, are steady. We quote as follows: Western brands range from $7 25 to $8 25; Minnesota, $8 50 @ $9 50; fancy, $8 00@8 25 @ bbl. Oat meal, fine, medium or coarse, $5 00 corn meal $5 75; rye flour $5 00.

GRAIN—Receipts by rail and river for the past twenty-four hours, consisted of 1,000 bushels of wheat, barley, rye and oats for the past twenty-four hours, by rail and river:

Wheat, sacks	1,340	Barley, sacks	490	
Rye, sacks	170	Oats, sacks	1,490	

The demand to-day was moderate for all varieties of grain. New wheat is arriving very fully, and will soon take the place of the old. As yet it is not hard or dry enough, and requires to be kept for old to make a prime barrel of flour. We quote as follows: New wheat, $1 46@1 48; old, $1 50@1 55. Oats is a shade lower, and we quote mixed at 40@43c; white, 42@45c. Shelled corn, on track, 52@53c; delivered, 55@56c; car 56@57c. 2000 bush Barley nominal.

GROCERIES—The market is reported fairly active, with moderate sales, as follows:

SUGARS—Crushed sugar, 11¾c; powdered, 11¼c; granulated, 11¼c; A, 11⅛@11¼c; B, 11@11¼c; extra C, 10¾@11c; yellow C, 10¼@10¾c; dark C, 10@10¼c; extra C, 9¾c; American extra C, 9¾c; H. G. & Co. B, 9c; other grades 8¾@8¾c.

COFFEE—Choice to fancy Rio, 20@21c prime; 18@20c; choice old Government Java 30c; roas ed, loose, 25@c; 1 lb package, 28c.

SPICES—Common, 28@30c; honey, 45c; golden, 50c; Centennial, 60c; Vienna Exposition, 70c; New Orleans molasses, 70@75c.

RICE—Rangoon, 7¾c; Patna, 8¾@9c; Carolina, 10c.

SPICES—Allspice, cash, 20c @ lb; cassia, 40c @ lb; ginger, in bulk, 22c; pepper, grain, 25c per lb.

HOPS—1872s held at 35c@60c; 1873s, 60@70c.

HAY—Quiet and steady in the market rates, and trade is rather dull. Sales baled, on track at $18 00@19 00 for choice prime timothy.

HOMINY—Demand moderate at $4 50@5 00 @ bbl.

ONIONS—Market fully supplied. Sales at $4 50@5 00 @ bbl.

LARD OIL—Prices unchanged at 75c for No. 1 extra; 70c for No. 1; 65@67c @ gallon.

MILL FEED—Market moderately active. We quote: Coarse middlings $7 00@7 50; fine do, $8 00@8 50; prime middlings $9 00@9 50; chopped corn and oats $1 35 @ 100 lbs.

PEANUTS—Are firmly held at 8¾@10c per lb.

POTATOES—Receipts for the past twenty-four hours are still slight. Spring Californias continue in active request, and prices are very firm. The sales comprise 25 bales Carpe pink at $3@4 @ bbl; 1,000 do Jeffries, at 90c@$1; 1,000 do Snowflakes, at 90c; 1,000 do Burbanks, at 90c; 2,000 do Peerless, at 90c; 2,000 do Early Rose, at 90c; 2,000 do Mammoth Pearls, at 90c; 2,000 do Hebrons, at 90c; 2,000 do Early Goodrich, at 90c; 2,000 do Early Ohios, at 90c; 2,000 do Peachblows, at 90c; 2,000 do Early Vermonts, at 90c; 2,000 do Garnet Chilis

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, August 23, 1873.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1873.

Wanted.

WEEKLY COMMERCIALS of the following dates to complete our files: February 24th, July 13th and September 18th 1872.

THE resolution of the Republican State Convention on back pay, condemned the voting of increased pay "whether in the State or nation." This was intended to cover the increase of pay of the members of the Constitutional Convention from $1,000 to $2,500, and is sufficiently explicit to be so understood by all those who voted for that increase.

MICHIGAN has just established a Constitutional Commission to revise its organic law. It was appointed by the Governor, under an act of the Legislature, and consists of twelve Republicans and six Democrats. We are sorry for Michigan; but, as the little boy said, who was condoling with a little fellow grown sick from smoking his first cigar, "this is a trial we all have to pass through."

VALE, the nominee for Governor of the "Anti-Monopoly" Convention in Iowa, is said to be both a farmer and a railroad President. Like the party to which he belongs, he is on both sides of the transportation question, and he is foolish enough to think that he will be acceptable to both the farmers and the railroads. But the farmers of Iowa cannot have their eyes covered by such a thin veil as this. They can see through it.

THE New York papers announced, all through the early summer, that the number of Americans going to Europe was immense—larger than ever before—50,000, at the least—and all caused by the high prices at the watering places, which, they assured us, were well nigh deserted. It turns out, now, that the number reaches only 18,533, which is just 495 more than last year, and that the watering places were not deserted, after all.

THE Governor last week signed the bill to erect a new Insane Asylum for ten of the Northwestern counties of the State. The delay in signing the bill was caused, not by any opposition to the project for the new Asylum, but by the manner in which the bill was framed, leaving its meaning doubtful or obscure. The Attorney General was absent in Europe until a week or two since, and as soon as his opinion upon it was obtained the bill was signed.

WHEN it was resolved to raise regiments of colored troops for the United States Army, the prejudice against color was still strong enough to force in a provision that they should be officered exclusively by white officers; and now that colored men are likely to graduate at West Point, and will have to be assigned to regiments, the Secretary of War finds that as he cannot assign them to colored regiments, on account of this provision, he will be compelled to assign them to white regiments. It is thus that prejudice defeats itself.

THE Democratic candidate for Governor of Ohio, "Pogpun ALLEN," or "Petticoat ALLEN," as he was called in 1840, says that the mission performed by his party in the war was "not that of exercising a "wholesome restraint" upon "the unbridled fury" of the Republicans. It might, perhaps, have ended the war sooner if they had exercised their restraint upon their natural allies, the rebels of the South. They preferred, it seems, as Mr. ALLEN now confesses, to obstruct and hold back the loyal men, so that the rebels might have a better chance.

MISSOURI is a State in which the Democrats have full sway. Whatever it is, to-day, they have made it, and the St. Louis *Republican*—an old-time Democratic organ—thus depicts its condition:

"In our own State we have been compelled to confess with humiliation and shame that the promises of reform consequent upon putting the Democrats from power have failed of fulfilment, and we as outspoken and independent journalists, must acknowledge that, looking the country over, there seems but little ground to hope for reformation of the evils the country is suffering under the outrageous rule of the dominant party from the accession to power of the Democracy, as officered and manned."

THE Harrisburg correspondent of the Philadelphia *Press*, in attendance at the Republican State Convention, says that GORDON's election will give the West four of the five Supreme Judges, Mr. MERCUR being classed as from the Northwest. Mr. MERCUR, however, is from Bradford county, which is in the North-*east*. There is but one county between him and the Eastern border of the State, where it corners on New York and New Jersey, and Bradford is as thoroughly an Eastern county as LUZERNE or Northampton. The whole Apalachian range of mountains interposes between it and the Northwest; and if locality has any influence on a man, Mr. MERCUR is as much an Eastern man as Judge SHARSWOOD or Judge READ.

THE Granges of Iowa have refused to have anything to do with political movements, and the Masters of the State Granges in Minnesota and Wisconsin have issued distinct orders forbidding the subordinate Granges from entering into political combinations. The constitution of the order prohibits the introduction into, or discussion of political questions in the meetings of the Granges, and if any local organizations step over this boundary it does so in defiance of its own rules. The effort of the Democracy, therefore, to capture the Granges and turn them into Democratic organizations, is, at the present, at least, a failure. The farmers can obtain all the legislation they need without being necessitated to degrade themselves by joining the Democratic party.

THE action of the Republican State Convention is very cordially and kindly responded to throughout the State. All of the Philadelphia Republican papers—several of which last year opposed our State ticket—speak out strongly in its support, and, so far, not a single Republican paper in the State has expressed a dissent. The Lancaster *Express* is not enthusiastic, and the Scranton *Republican* does not show a tendency to extravagance in its laudation of the ticket; but both yield to the situation, as do nearly all of those papers which last year were so freely quoted against us. All the indications point to the prevalence of unity and harmony in the party; and as the platform commands the highest approval in all quarters, outside the State as well as in it, we may reasonably expect one of those grand triumphs at the polls which always follow when the Republican party is gratified with its position and harmonious in its action.

SENATOR CARPENTER, of Wisconsin, was chosen President, *pro tempore*, of the United States Senate, at the close of the last session, Vice President WILSON being temporarily absent, and he will, of course, remain in that position until the Senate re-assembles. But he is not the permanent President of the Senate. That body elects a President *pro tem*, on every occasion when the Vice President is temporarily absent. Should Mr. WILSON be present when the Senate re-assembles Mr. CARPENTER's Presidency will then cease, and if the Vice President should be absent the very next day, the Senate would proceed to a new election of President *pro tem*. The practice of the Senate is to hold an election for President *pro tem*, as often as the Vice President absents himself; and the inclination of the papers, generally, to treat Senator CARPENTER as the permanent President of the Senate when the Vice President is absent, is therefore based upon a misapprehension of the practice of that body.

JUDGE GORDON.

The nomination of Judge GORDON for the Supreme Bench has been uniformly received with gratification by our party friends. It was somewhat unexpected, it is true; but he is so well known as an upright and honest man and as a sound jurist, that the entire party falls into his support without a word of fault-finding or cavil. His great ability as a Judge, and his inflexible integrity as a man, alike commend him to the public approval; and no community would have preferred one to the other of the two candidates who contested the nomination with him, for local or personal reasons, all are satisfied with Judge GORDON, and prepared to support him cordially. The only objection, in fact, urged against his nomination, was that of "locality;" and that, in our judgment, at least, ceased to be a valid objection when applied to the selection of judicial candidates. It matters not where a man comes from, who has to act as an arbiter in the court of last resort, so that he is fit for the place; and the fitness of Judge GORDON being universally conceded, there can be no valid or good objection urged to his election.

THE PARTY ONCE MORE UNITED.

The Republican party of Pennsylvania is once more a unit, thanks to last year's election and this year's State Convention. The little rupture which occurred last year, and which temporarily carried off a number of Republican newspapers into the ranks of the opposition, is now completely healed, and all the newspapers which were in 1872 so freely and so industriously quoted against us, have given in their adhesion to the Republican State platform and ticket. It was a favorite boast in the columns of such papers as the New York *Tribune*, last year, that there were fifty Republican papers in Pennsylvania that refused to support HARTRANFT. This was a gross exaggeration, but it was never corrected by those who indulged in it; and as they magnified that little difficulty out of all bounds, we presume they will be equally willing to admit that these papers have all come back and are now once more in line with their old friends. We sympathize with the Democracy in having to witness this, to them, unexpected and unwelcome condition of things; but our pleasure is none the less great on that account. The Republicans of Pennsylvania now present a united front; and if the Democracy has any sense left it will give heed to the fact and hasten to get out of the way.

TEACHING AND DIGNITY.

All persons interested in the subject of popular education doubtless read with attention the daily reports of the proceedings of the State Teachers' Association which last week celebrated in Pittsburgh its twentieth anniversary. This annual meeting is now fully understood to be an almost essential part of the educational machinery of the Commonwealth. Teachers regard it with interest as affording an appropriate occasion for useful discussion and the comparison of views and theories pertaining to their profession, while the general public watch its proceedings with liberal curiosity as affording indications of the character and spirit of its members and of the progress of their work. Though not elected to their office by popular vote, common school teachers are servants of the people, recognized and honored as such in so far as their position with its duties and responsibilities is clearly comprehended. Faithful to ancestral traditions, to impressions resulting from colonial connection with aristocratic institutions, Americans were not from the foundation ot the republic prepared to respect the instructors of the children of the people, in mere recognition of the importance and inherent dignity of their functions. On the contrary, a deeply rooted prejudice had to be overcome. The common people, as they were called, had to learn the lesson of self-respect, to feel their own political and social weight, and the worth of their own belongings. They had also to learn the value of education to themselves, having been accustomed chiefly to regard it as an indispensable possession and graceful decoration of their "betters." Much inclined to admire "high learning" as a preparation for the "learned professions" and to reverence the scholars who imparted it, they looked with very different feelings upon the teachers of the humble elements sometimes facetiously referred to as "the three R's." To the uninstructed popular judgment the work to be done by them called neither much ability nor much knowledge. It seemed a poor business for which a man unfit for almost everything else might be fit. Thus the hereditary prejudice so unreasonable and so inconsistent with the principles of our democratic government continued long to propagate itself, by sustaining the facts which formed its basis and justification.

The mere breaking in of light and even a quite general awakening of the popular mind to the evils of the existing system, did not at once suffice to effect an entire change. Though, definitely or dimly comprehending the value of good teachers and good schools, the people having little if any experimental or practical knowledge of either, were liable to constant mistakes in their attempts to introduce reform. Even zeal in behalf of the great interest exposed them to the arts and impostures of charlatans. But still more mischievous than misdirected zeal or involuntary mistakes has been the remnant of ancient ignorance which consentingly refuses to be instructed, while insisting on its right to a controlling voice in the management of the schools. These evil influences, in connection with local politics in some places, and in others with the selfish spirit which seeks to turn the schools to personal or family account, will doubtless be generally admitted to operate in a way unfavorable to the dignity and reputation of the teaching profession as well as to the prosperity of the common schools. Hence, in despite of a good system and some competent officers to administer it, Pennsylvania is still far behind some other States in the matter of popular education. A glance at published reports easily accessible is sufficient to convince any person ignorant of or disposed to question the fact, that a man may occupy the responsible position of a County Superintendency without possessing a decently creditable knowledge of his mother tongue, a deficiency which raises a violent presumption of shortcomings equally gross, if not equally discreditable in other respects. Indeed, as to the defective qualifications of a large proportion of the teachers employed in some counties, nobody entertains any doubt, while very many teachers, well qualified for their duties so far as theoretical knowledge is concerned, are yet dedicated to the most imperfect methods of instruction, which are essential to efficient teaching. Considerable intelligence, zeal, and energy are and for several years have been employed in the work of removing these blemishes from the school system of the State, but while they continue to deform it, the profession of common school teacher necessarily fails to command the degree of consideration to which its utility and the laborious, self-denying character of its duties entitle it in a republic.

None of the subjects of formal report and somewhat animated discussion at the late meeting of the State Association in Pittsburgh was, perhaps, suggested by a natural desire on the part of some teachers to magnify their office and give it additional dignity. In an elaborate paper on the relation of high schools and academies to colleges, Mr. State Superintendent WICKERSHAM, contended earnestly in favor of a further development of the common school system, so as to make them nurseries of the colleges. He would, therefore, have high schools established everywhere throughout the State, in which the pupils could be prepared for admission to college. The theory appeared to meet with a good deal of favor among the members of the Association, a fact by no means surprising in view of the natural tendency of devotion to a single interest or pursuit. It would, however, be very strange if the view found much acceptance with the taxpayers of the State. It is certainly a rather wild fancy that the Commonwealth is either bound or likely to be willing to give a collegiate education to each one of its youthful children who may desire to enjoy such advantages. So large a measure of education as is ordinarily essential to good citizenship and to worthy success in life the State is under obligations to secure to every child within its limits, but no more. Roughly defined such training consists in a good knowledge of reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography and ethics, and to these branches common school education ought to be strictly limited. To any instruction beyond these branches at the public expense a child has no more right, as Judge COOPER once wrote, than it has to plum-pudding and pastry every day at dinner. The taxpayers of a city or town may, if they please, establish an academy or high school for the benefit of pupils who distinguish themselves in the lower schools; such an institution in a city may have excellent results, and may sometimes even seem necessary to complete the system. But to make high schools an essential part of the educational machinery of the State would be carrying beneficence to an exorbitant extent, and might easily injure the interest which it was designed to serve. In fact, it should seem that the State might undertake, with equal propriety and right, to furnish every young man and young woman with a piece of land or a few hundred dollars wherein to begin business.

Within the range of instruction indicated above an admirable education is comprehended when the teaching is done by persons who have really learned their profession. And when in all the school houses of the State instruction shall be given with due skill and adequate practical results, no connection, real or fictitious, with colleges will be needed to shed dignity upon the teacher's calling. It is not what he teaches but the manner in which he teaches that magnifies his office and makes it honorable.

THE "CHARGES" AGAINST MR. MACKEY.

The New York *Herald* is very unhappy over the Pennsylvania Republican nomiations. It was not consulted about them, and as nothing is good in its eyes which it does not originate, it cannot be expected to derive much comfort from the action of a party which has never received any aid from it, and neither asks or expects any.

It talks glibly about grave "charges" hanging over Mr. MACKEY, without knowing what it is talking about, no "charges," at least nothing worthy of that name, have ever been preferred against Mr. MACKEY as a public officer; on the contrary, it is everywhere conceded that he has been an efficient, faithful and honest State Treasurer, managing the State finances wisely, maintaining the public credit intact, and meeting every attempt to defraud the State with resolute and successful opposition.

Last year, it is true, the Philadelphia *Press* made some random insinuations that there was something wrong in the State Treasury; but the monthly balance reported was not really on hand; and that the securities in the Sinking Fund had been tampered with or spirited away. To meet these accusations, Mr. MACKEY invited two of the foremost bankers in Philadelphia—men of high character and unbending integrity—to make a personal examination of the Treasury and the Sinking Fund, to exercise a thorough scrutiny, and to report the facts, as they found them. The examination was made, accordingly; and it was not only searching and impartial, but thorough and complete in its severity: and those gentlemen reported that they found the securities in the Sinking Fund untouched and just as they should be; that these securities were not negotiable, and could not be disposed of in the market, if any one were to try to, sell them; and that every dollar of the reported monthly balance was either in the Treasury or on deposit, the deposits being certified to, all on one given day, by the banks which held them. This testimony,—clear, complete, and impartial,—so effectually disposed of the "charges" against Mr. MACKEY that they were never again pressed, and the political campaign which followed was so thorough a vindication of him, that nearly every one in Pennsylvania has forgotten that they were ever made.

If it suits the opposition to revive these exploded charges, and make the campaign on them, we cannot object. The defense against them is fully sufficient, and they need not be dreaded. Mr. MACKEY has served three years in the Treasurer's office, and no charge has ever been officially made against him. His accounts have always been found right, and his management of the State finances has always been so masterly, and his unwearied personal attention to his duties so generally satisfactory, that men of all parties, in the Legislature and out of it, have conceded his ability and his integrity, and acknowledged his obliging attentions to every one who has been brought into personal contact with him. His nomination, at this time, is not the result of management or trickery, but is the spontaneous action of the people, and shows that in his administration of the public treasury he has won the public confidence and will receive the public support.

ISAAC G. GORDON,

Our candidate for Supreme Judge, was born in Lewisburg, Union county in 1819, and is now in his fifty-fifth year. He comes of a good old Scotch-Irish stock, and his grandfather, who settled in Northumberland county, was a man of marked ability and one of the best educated men of his day. He was highly esteemed in all that region, and has left a highly remembered name behind him. Between the ages of sixteen and twenty-two he found employment as a moulder in a foundry, where he learned, by practical experience, those principles of protection, free labor and sympathy with the working classes which have since governed his conduct; but an accident by which some boiling iron was spilled over his left foot severely crippled him, and he was forced to find some other employment.

Through the kindness of some friends, still living, he was enabled, in 1841, to study law with JAMES F. LINN, Esq., in Lewisburg. Union county, where he was afterwards admitted to the bar, and in the summer of 1843 he removed to Clearfield, where he went into partnership with HON. G. A. BARRETT, but in a few years he took up his residence in Brookville, Jefferson county, where he has resided ever since.

It was no mean compliment to Judge GORDON that, in the late State Convention, the delegates from Northumberland, Union and Clearfield counties all voted for him from the start, and that he eventually got the votes of the delegations from the entire middle region of the State, where he was born and grew up to manhood. His personal popularity in that section is very great, and is an honorable testimony to the high character he bears among those who have known him from his youth up.

In 1859 and 1860 he was elected to the Legislature from Jefferson county, where he served as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the House, maintaining an unsullied reputation throughout; and a vacancy occurring in 1866 on the bench of the Twenty-eighth Judicial District, he was appointed by Governor CURTIN as President Judge to serve until a Judge could be elected by the people. The district being then Democratic, he could not be elected; but he filled the vacancy with great credit to himself and to the general satisfaction of the bar.

In his own county he has for many years stood at the head of his profession, and he has long enjoyed a very large practice, not only in that but in adjoining counties. This practicely fits him for the position of Judge, as the difficult questions arising out of disputed land titles, as also with the many complicated disputes that have grown out of leases and occupancy of oil territory; and he will accordingly carry with him, if elected to the Supreme Bench, a legal experience extremely large, varied and valuable.

Among his own people Judge GORDON stands remarkably well. His life and character have been exemplary, and although always a man of pronounced political opinions, he has never been a bitter partisan, but has the esteem and regard of the community in which he lives. If, therefore, to be an upright man, a good Judge and an able lawyer qualify a man for a place in the Court of last resort, Judge GORDON may be truly said to come fully up to the mark, and the Republican party of Pennsylvania may congratulate itself upon having for its candidate a man with a clear head and clean hands, who will act without fear and whose life is without reproach.

THE AUGUST STORM.

Many of our people have been erroneously inclined to think that the heavy storm which has lately visited the entire country was the equinoctial storm, come a month before its time; but in the eastern part of the State this August storm is always looked for, as a matter of course. The Philadelphia *Press* says:

The extraordinary rain of yesterday, which seems to have prevailed very generally, was anticipated by the farmers, and is known among them as the "Lammas flood," recurring usually from the first to the middle of August. In the calendar the name is derived from the custom of the tenants who held the lands of the Cathedral Church, England, of bringing a live lamb into the church at High Mass on Lammas-day. Some antiquarians believe it is from "loaf-mass," or "bread mass," which was a feast of thanksgiving for the first fruits of the harvest; and Dr. Johnson thinks it a corruption of Lattermath—meaning a second mowing of the grass. Valencenn, in his Collection, mentions that on the most ancient of the Christian registers